KA-TAK
DOOM
CAN YOU STAND?
!

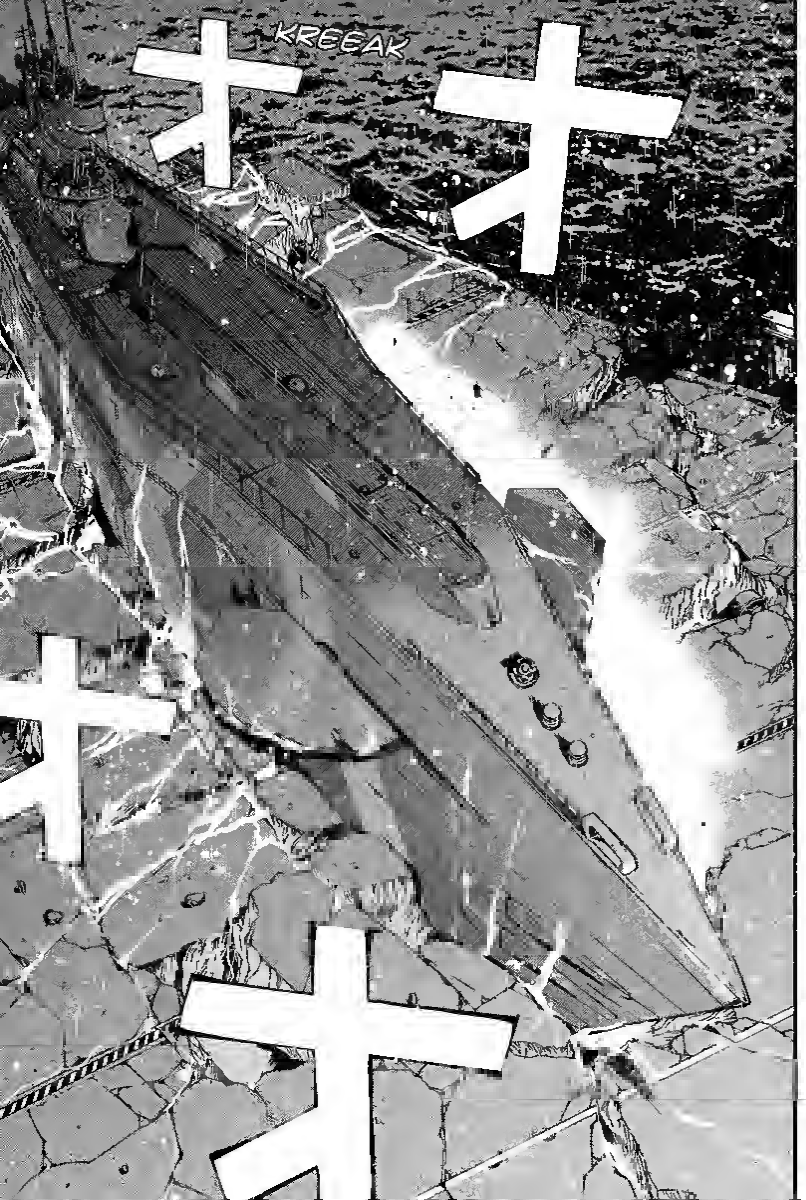
UM!
SHWOOOM
YES...
WE'VE GOT YOU NOW, "NAVIGATOR."
OR SHOULD I SAY... "BATTLESHIP KILLER"?
TUNK
TUNK
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US INSTEAD?
WE CAN'T GIVE YOU THAT GIRL JUST SO YOU CAN MESS WITH SOME DIET MEMBER.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE UNLESS YOU PLAN TO JUMP INTO THE SEA
WE'VE LOCKED DOWN THIS ENTIRE AREA.
GHWOOM
KA-CHAK
..."BATTLESHIP KILLER."
TOO BAD...
HUH?
...THE NIGHT I MET *HER*.
THE WIND WAS JUST LIKE THIS...

BWOOM
!!

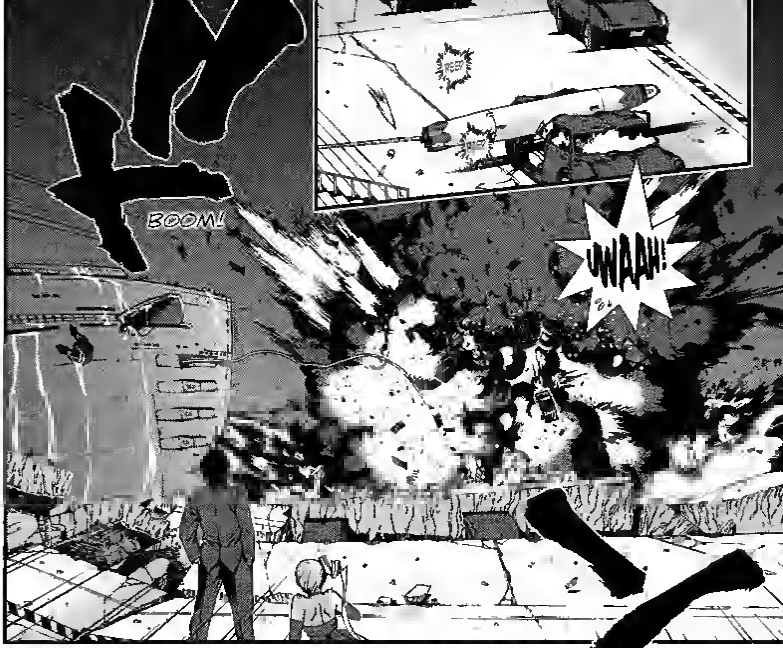
Depth.001

UWAAAAH!
THOOM
BLUE STEEL!


KREEAK

PSHEW
UWAAAH!
KLONK
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
SWISH
TAK
TAK

THINGS GOT COMPLICATED.
SORRY.
SO IT SEEMS.
I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE DETAILS LATER.
DON'T WORRY.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
LET'S GO HOME.
WE'VE GOT OUR NEXT JOB TO DO.
YEAH.


BOOM!
UWAAH!

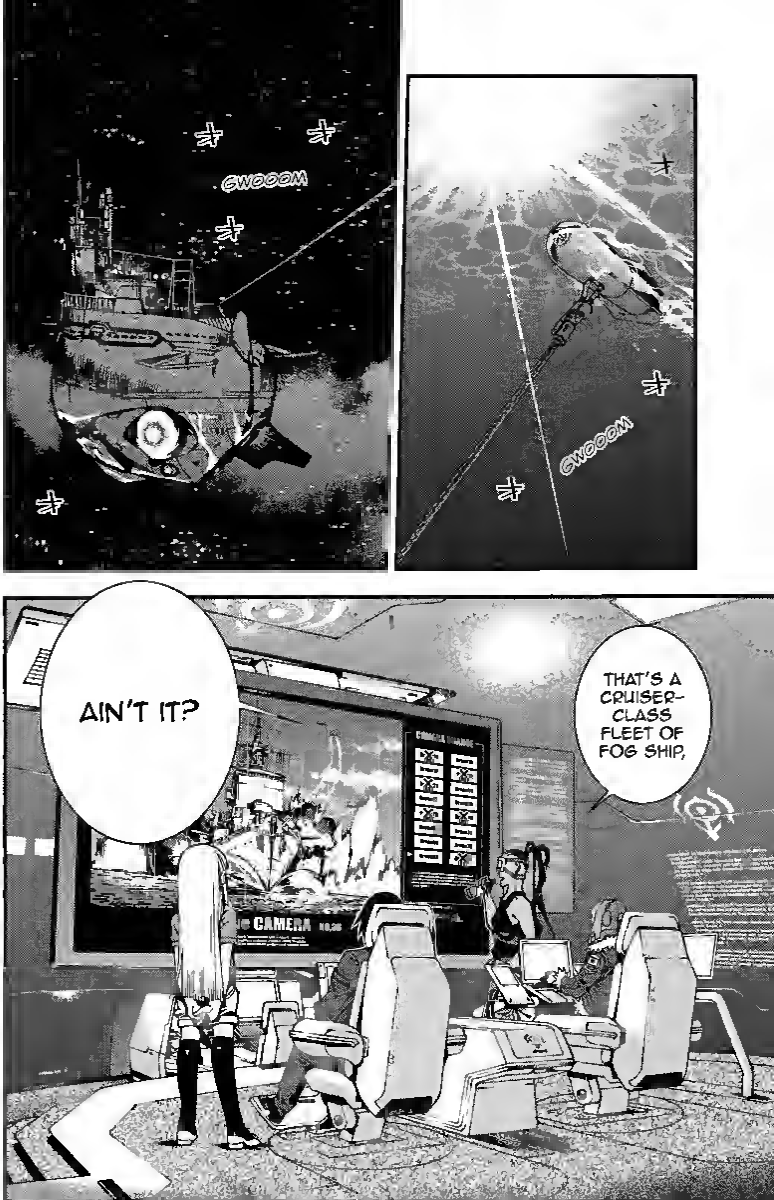
.....
LET'S GET GOING.
THE AGREEMENT WITH YOUR FATHER—
. WAS THAT WE WOULD SEE YOU HOME SAFELY.

...ARE YOU?
BUT., WHO ON EARTH...
WHOO
BLUE STEEL.

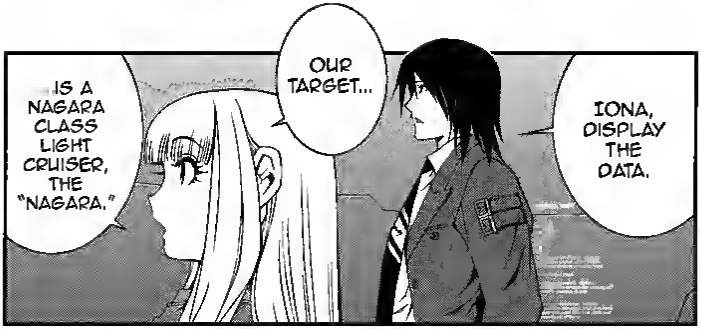
KASHIMA CITY,
SAGA PREFECTURE,
OFF THE COAST OF THE
SPACE CENTER
RRRRUMBLE

SHOOM

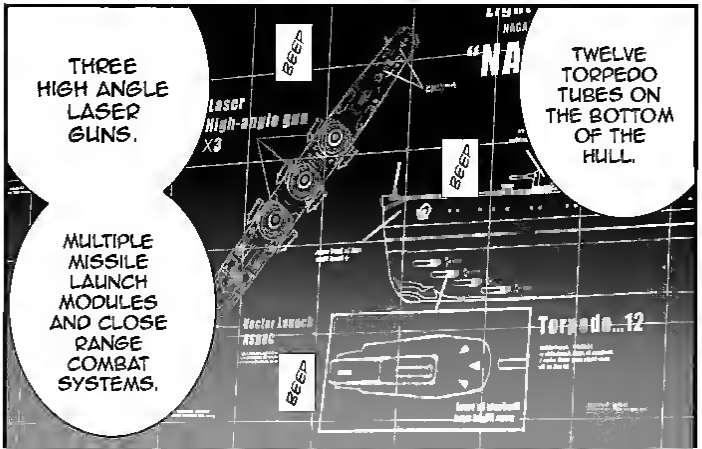
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WOOO
BRRROOM


GWOOOM
GWOOOM
THAT'S A CRUISER-CLASS FLEET OF FOG SHIP,
AIN'T IT?
CAMERA

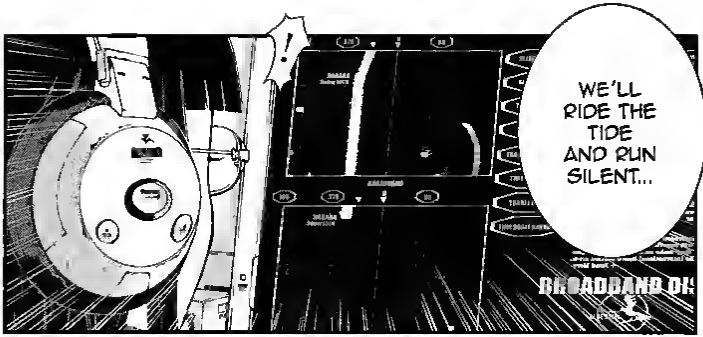
* A REUSABLE SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT CAPABLE OF FLYING THROUGH SPACE.


...IS A NAGARA CLASS LIGHT CRUISER, THE "NAGARA."
OUR TARGET...
IONA, DISPLAY THE DATA.

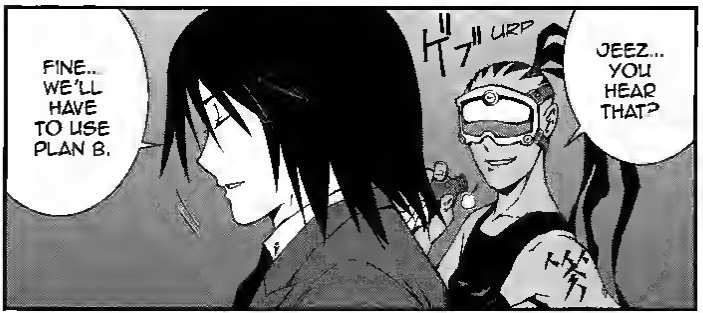
...AND SIX 12.3 CENTIMETER GUNS ON THREE ACTIVE TURRETS.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
ITS DISPLACEMENT IS 6010 TONS IT'S EQUIPPED WITH KLEIN FIELD WAVE MOTION COMPULSORY CONVERSION ARMOR...

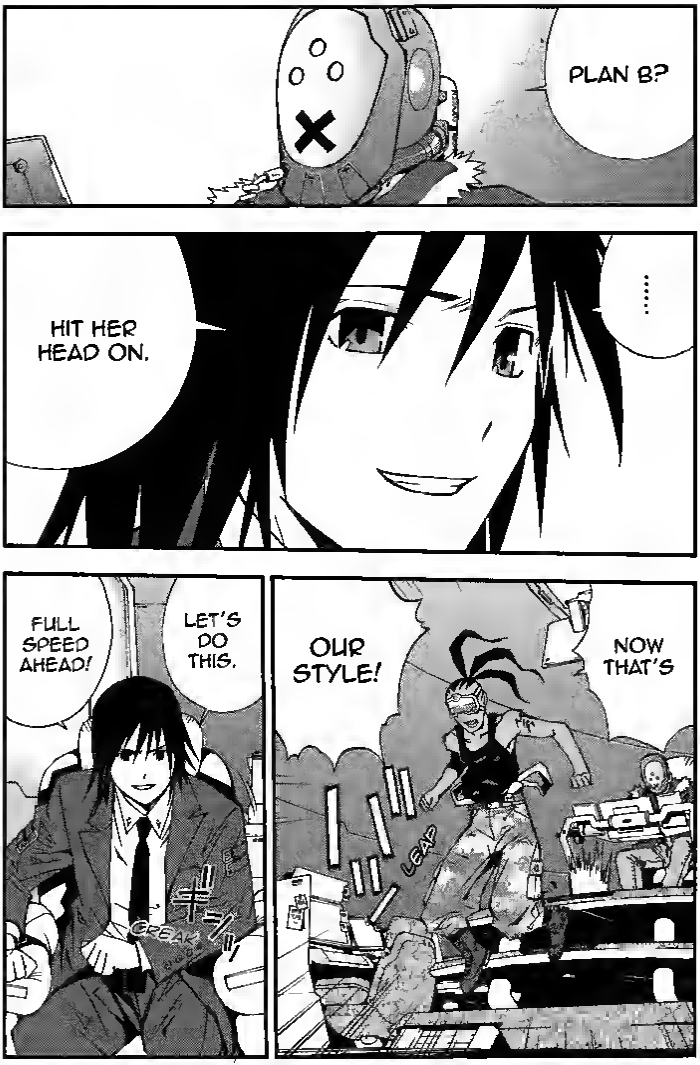

THREE HIGH ANGLE LASER GUNS.
MULTIPLE MISSILE LAUNCH MODULES AND CLOSE RANGE COMBAT SYSTEMS.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
TWELVE TORPEDO TUBES ON THE BOTTOM OF THE HULL.
Laser
High-angle gun
X3
Torpedo...12

IT IS A STANDARD FOG LIGHT CRUISER.
IT HAS A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 60 KNOTS, AND NO SUBMERSION CAPABILITY.
THE NAGARA HASN'T SEEN US YET.
WE'RE APPROACHING THE PREDICTED COMBAT AREA AT 10 KNOTS.
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, CAPTAIN?
THIS WON'T BE AN EASY JOB.
IT'LL BE HIGH TIDE SOON...
...SO WE'LL HAVE THE CURRENT AT OUR BACKS.


WE'LL RIDE THE TIDE AND RUN SILENT...
BROADBAND DI

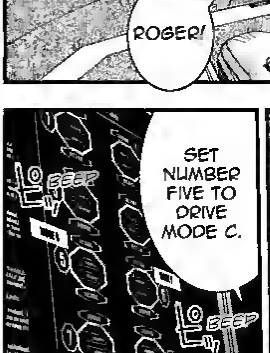
THEY MIGHT'VE SPOTTED US.
THE NAGARA'S TURNED, BEARING TWO ONE TWO.

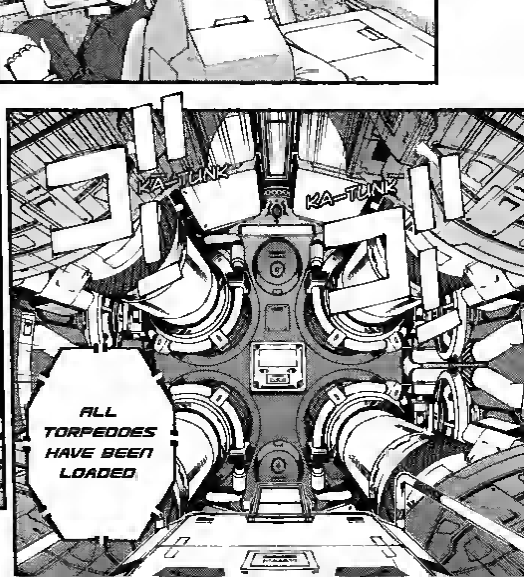

FINE... WE'LL HAVE TO USE PLAN B.
ドゴゴ URP
JEEZ... YOU HEAR THAT?

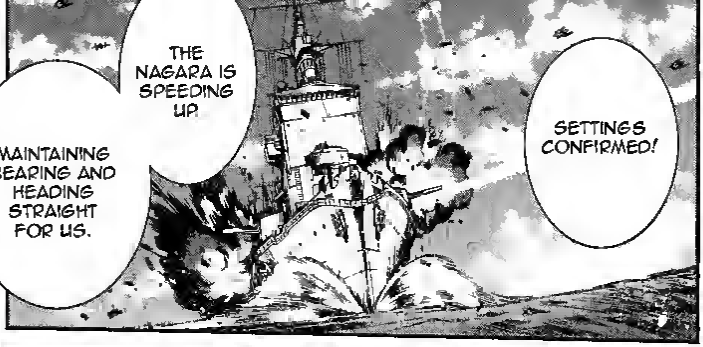

PLAN B?
HIT HER HEAD ON.
.....
LET'S DO THIS.
FULL SPEED AHEAD!
CREAK
NOW THAT'S
OUR STYLE!
LEAP

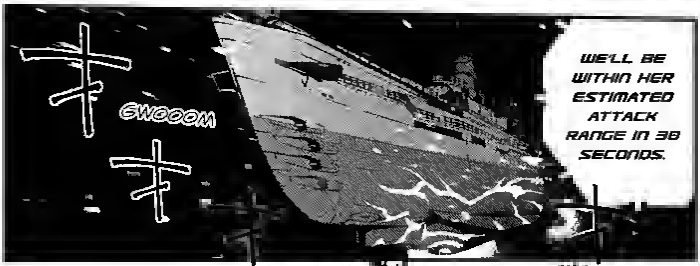
ENGINE ROOM, YOU READY?
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
THERE'S SOME FLUCTUATIONS IN THE SUPER-CONDUCTORS I NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON...
...BUT SHE'LL HOLD.

MAKE READY TUBES ONE THROUGH FOUR CONVENTIONAL WAPHEADS
LOAD FIVE AND SIX WITH ACTIVE DECOYS.
ROGER!

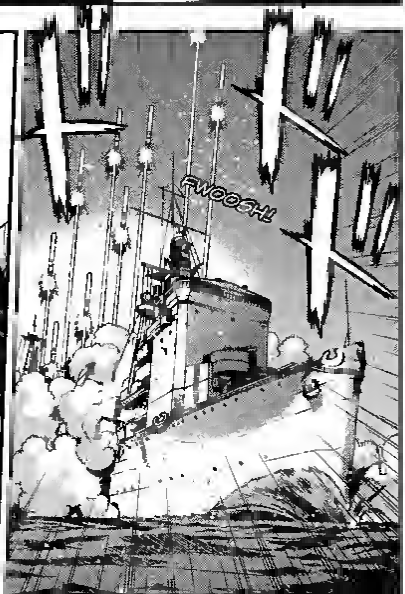

BEEP
SET NUMBER FIVE TO DRIVE MODE C.
BEEP
NUMBER SIX TO DRIVE MODE F.


KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
ALL TORPEDOES HAVE BEEN LOADED


THE NAGARA IS SPEEDING UP.
MAINTAINING BEARING AND HEADING STRAIGHT FOR US.
SETTINGS CONFIRMED!


SWOOOM
WE'LL BE WITHIN HER ESTIMATED ATTACK RANGE IN 30 SECONDS.

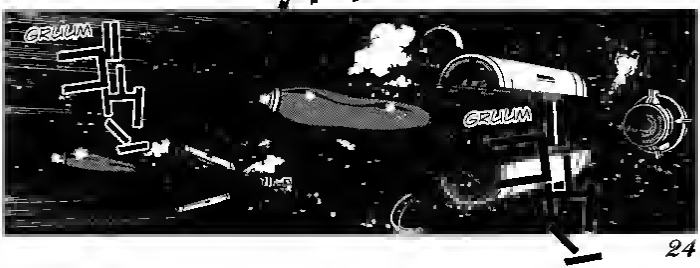
VLA TORPEDOES.
COUNTING TWELVE IMPACTS ON THE WATER'S SURFACE

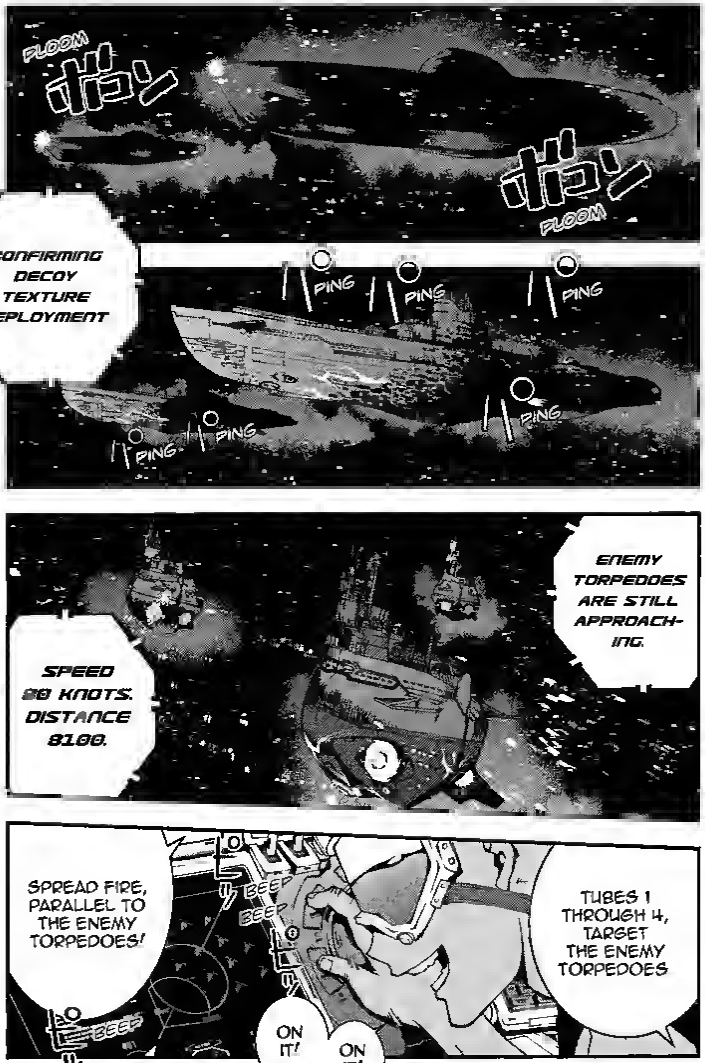

FWOOSH!

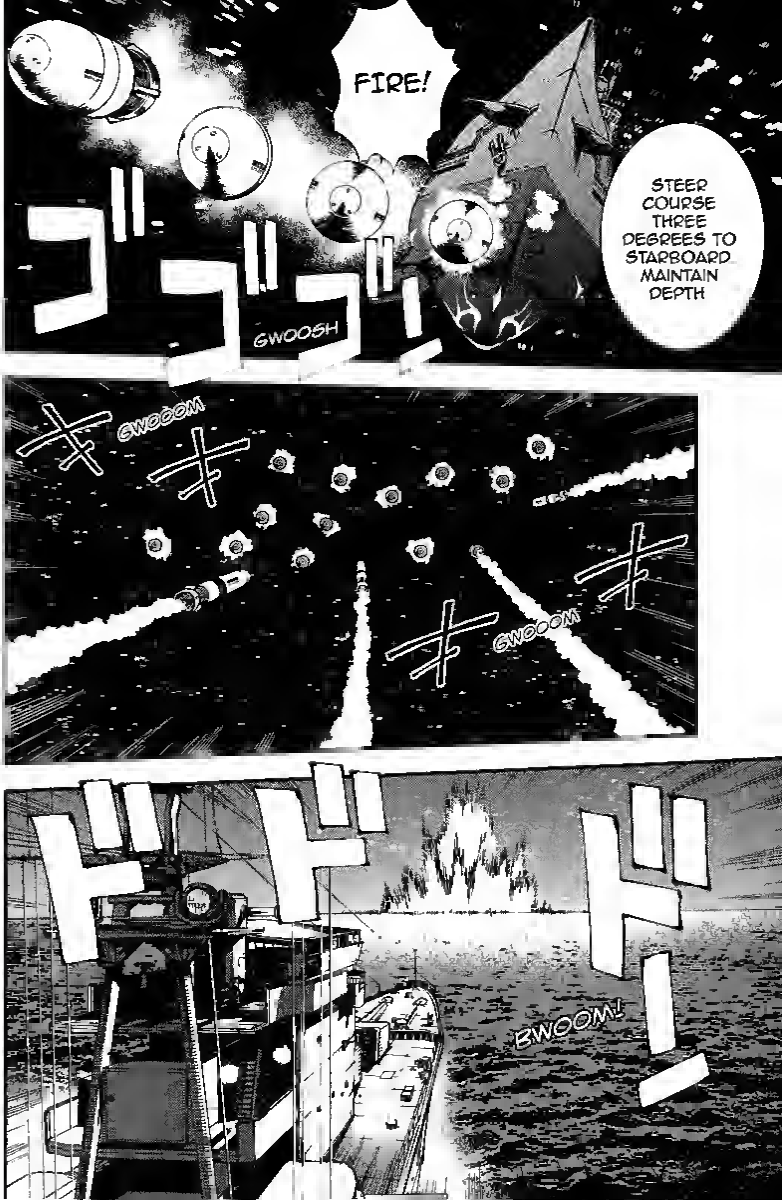
TORPEDO TUBES FIVE AND SIX...
..FIRE DECOYS.
CREAK

RELOAD TUBE FIVE..
...WITH A CORROSIVE TORPEDO.

FIRE DECOYS!
PSHOOM
PSHOOM


GRUUM
GRUUM

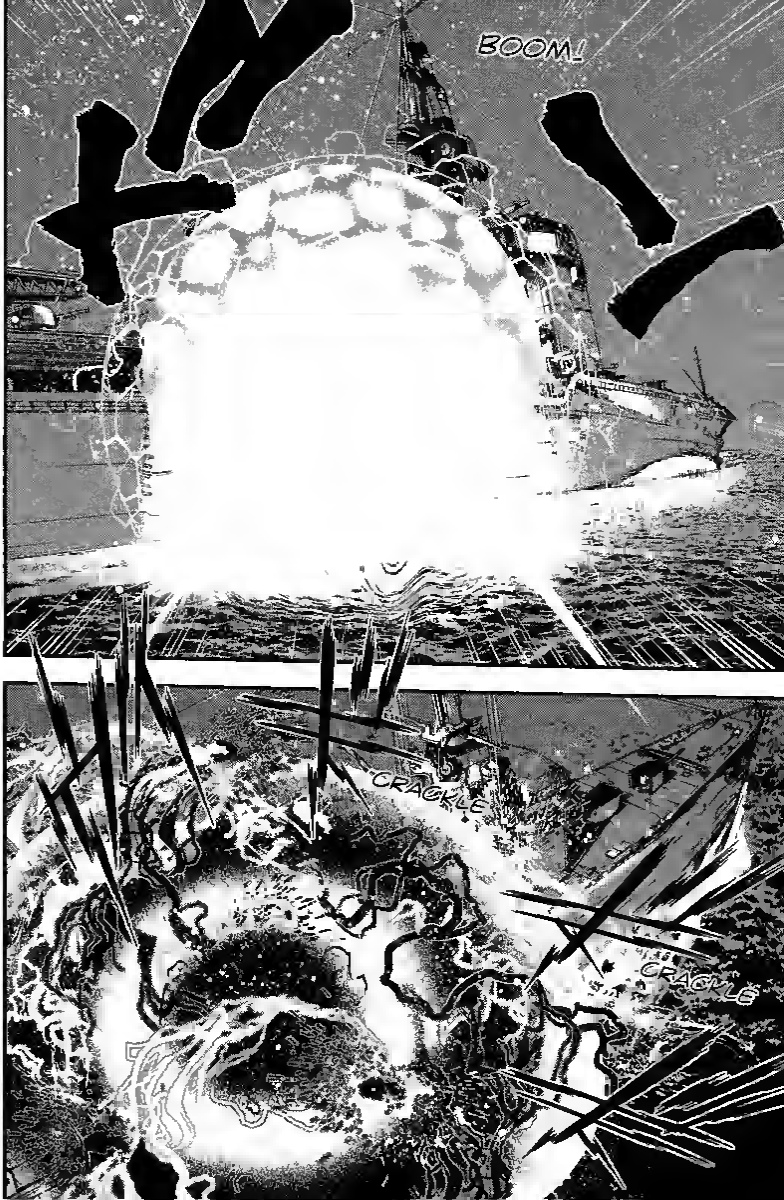

FLOOM
ボン
ボン
FLOOM
CONFIRMING DECOY TEXTURE DEPLOYMENT
PING
PING
PING
PING
PING
PING
ENEMY TORPEDOES ARE STILL APPROACHING.
SPEED 20 KNOTS. DISTANCE 8100.
SPREAD FIRE, PARALLEL TO THE ENEMY TORPEDOES!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
TUBES 1 THROUGH 4, TARGET THE ENEMY TORPEDOES
ON IT!
ON IT!


FIRE!
STEER COURSE THREE DEGREES TO STARBOARD MAINTAIN DEPTH
GWOOSH
GWOOOM
GWOOOM
BWOOM!

THEY'VE TAKEN THE ENEMY TORPEDOES OUT IN THE BLAST.
THE TORPEDOES HAVE ACTIVATED.
RATTLE
SONAR SENSITIVITY DOWN-GRADED.
RATTLE
WAIT...
GWOOOM
DISTANCE 250!
ONE ENEMY TORPEDO STILL HEADING FOR US!

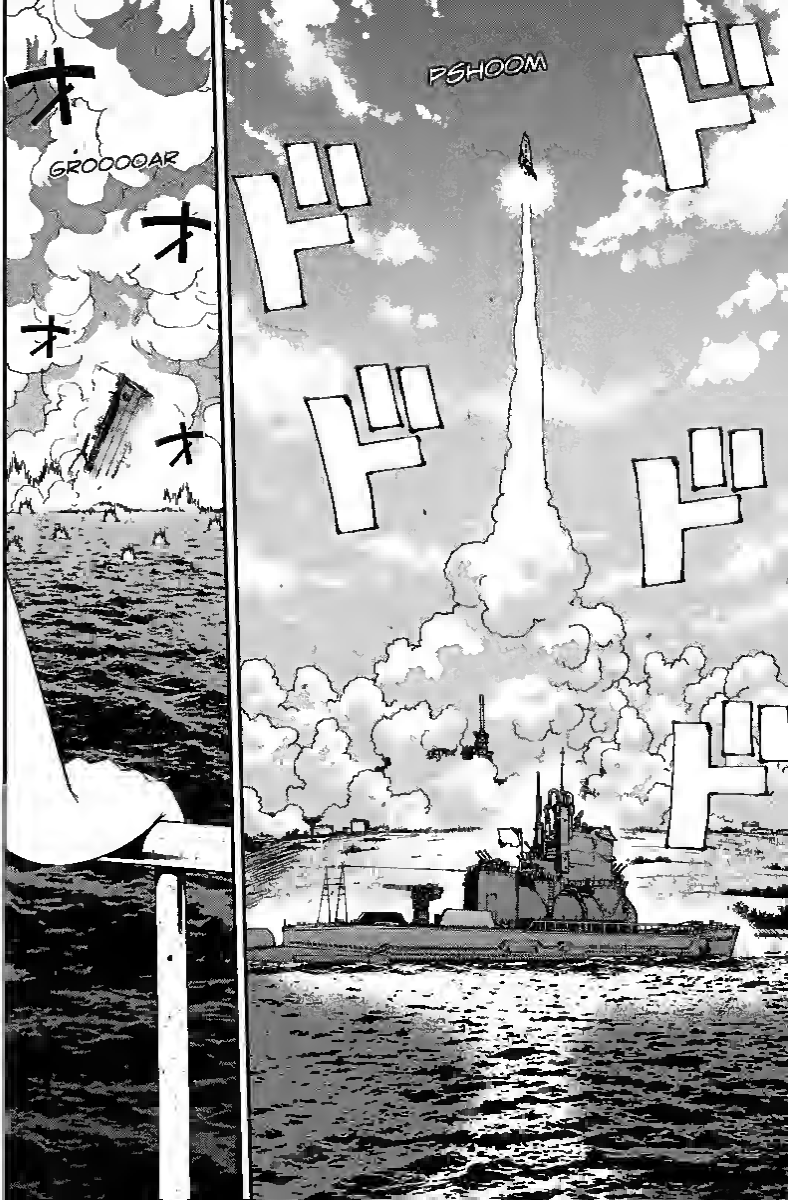
ズ
KYA-BOOM!
ドド
ドド
ドド

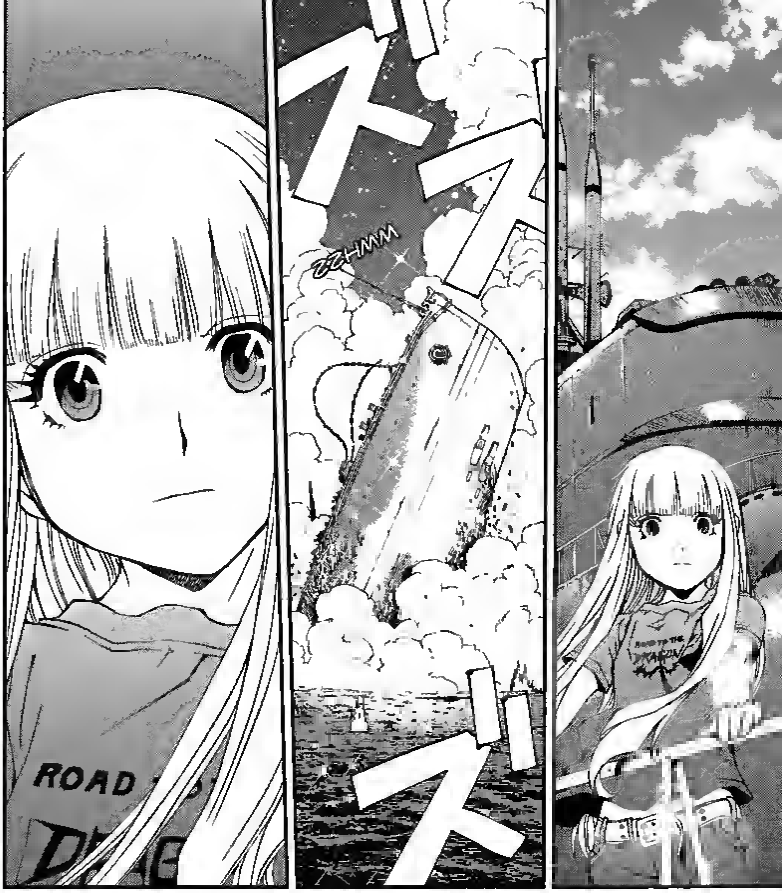
FIRE CORROSIVE TORPEDO!
BWOOOM!
FLASH!

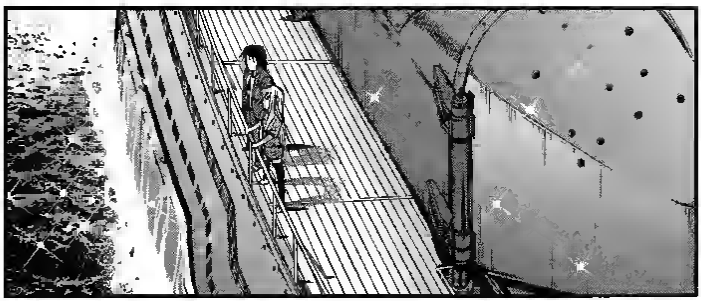

BOOM!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

ESHOOM
ボーン
FWOOM
KRIK
KRAK
GRZZM

SHWA—
WELL DONE...
...GIRL WHO BETRAYED THE FOG.
DIGITAL TELESCOPE
BOOM!
WELL DONE INDEED.

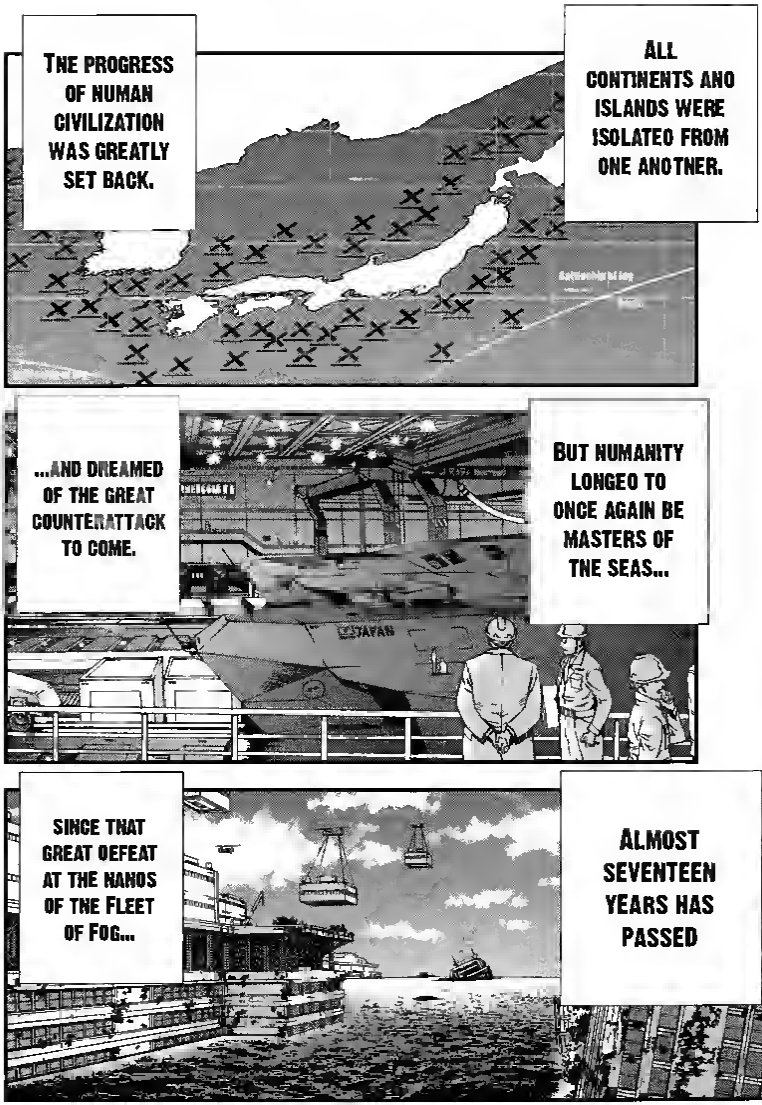

GROOOOAR
PSHOOM

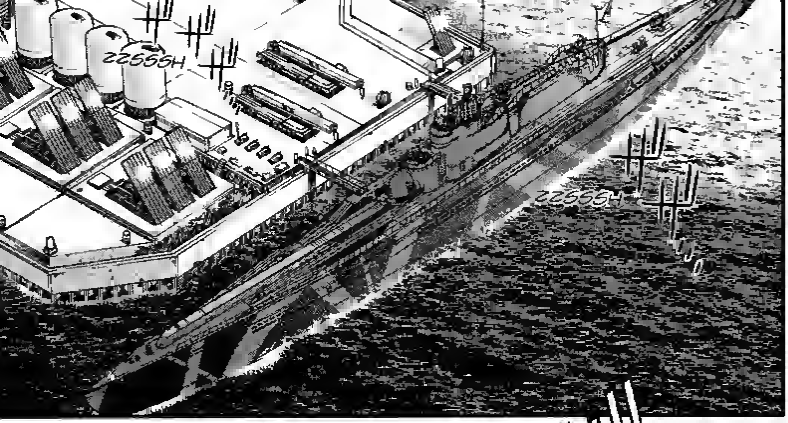

ROAD
ZZHMM
ズズ
ズ

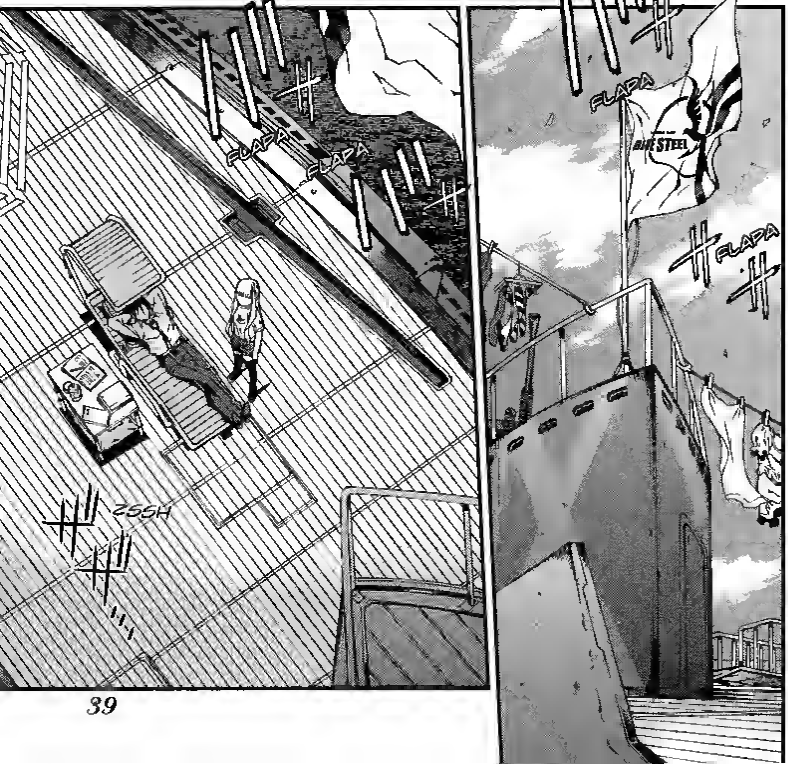


HUMANITY HAD LOST MOST OF ITS TERRESTRIAL TERRITORY DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER FACTORS.
BY THE START OF THE 21ST CENTURY,
Ichihara
Omiya
Narita
Hachioji
Tokyo
Mt.Fuji
Yokosuka
<20m>
AREAS LOST TO RISING SEA LEVELS
Hamaizu
Atami
Hasaki
Tateyama
AS IF IN RESPONSE TO THIS PREDICAMENT,
AN ENEMY OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN, THE FLEET OF FOG, APPEARED.

THIS MYSTERIOUS FLEET
DROVE HUMAHITY FROM THE SEAS.


THE PROGRESS OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION WAS GREATLY SET BACK.
ALL CONTINENTS AND ISLANDS WERE ISOLATED FROM ONE ANOTHER.
...AND DREAMED OF THE GREAT COUNTERATTACK TO COME.
BUT HUMANITY LONGED TO ONCE AGAIN BE MASTERS OF THE SEAS...
SINCE THAT GREAT DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE FLEET OF FOG...
ALMOST SEVENTEEN YEARS HAS PASSED

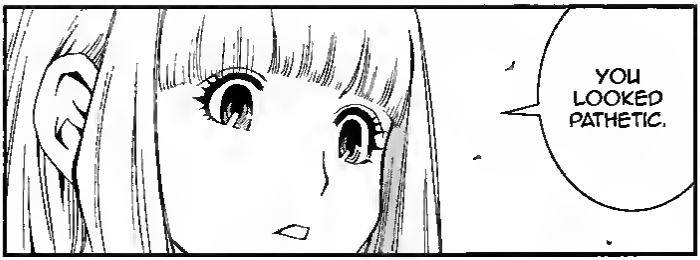

ZZSSSH
ZZSSSH


FLAPA
FLAPA
FLAPA
BIR STEEL
FLAPA
ZSSH

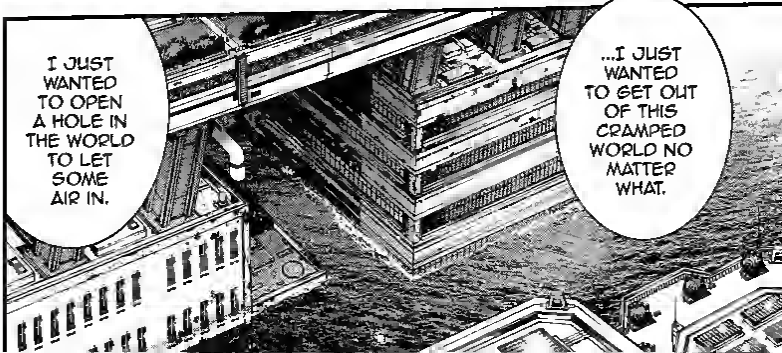
GUNZOU!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TODAY'S TRAINING.
...
CAPTAIN SHOUZOU CHIHAYA...
YOUR FATHER...

...HAS BECOME AN ENEMY OF HUMANITY.

HEY, IONA.
HMM?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE MET?
I DO.
DO YOU...
...REMEMBER THE EXPRESSION ON MY FACE?


YOU LOOKED PATHETIC.

BACK THEN...


I JUST WANTED TO OPEN A HOLE IN THE WORLD TO LET SOME AIR IN.
...I JUST WANTED TO GET OUT OF THIS CRAMPED WORLD NO MATTER WHAT.

I THOUGHT THAT AT LAST, I COULD FINALLY DO IT.
I ALMOST WENT CRAZY WITH JOY WHEN I MET YOU.
NOT AT ALL.
NO...
WERE YOU ABLE TO OPEN THAT HOLE?
I'M SURE.
KAMO

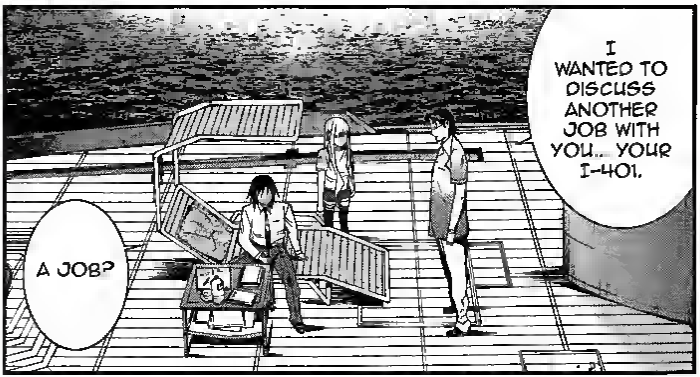
CHIHAYA?

GUNZOU CHIHAYA, YES?

WHO'RE YOU?
.....

THAT WAS OFF THE COAST OF THE KASHIMA LAUNCH CENTER.
THE MAN WHO HIRED YOU TO ELIMINATE THE FLEET OF FOG CRUISER
STEP
STEP

...AND?
WE SPOKE EARLIER VIA THE COMMUNICA-TION SYSTEM
STEP

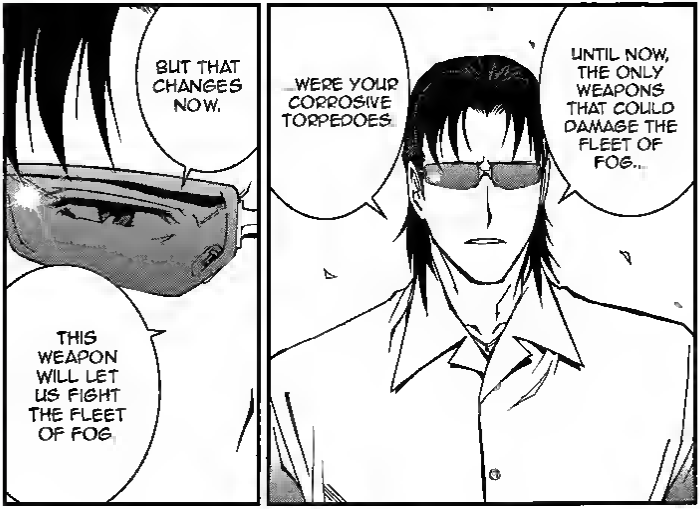

A JOB?
I WANTED TO DISCUSS ANOTHER JOB WITH YOU... YOUR I-401.

IT'S REGARDING HOPE.
I WANT YOU TO CARRY HUMANITY'S LAST HOPE

Depth.002

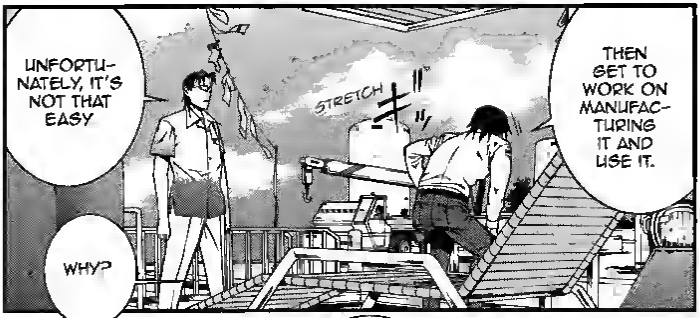
IF YOU TAKE THE JOB...
...I CAN GIVE YOU MORE DETAILED INFORMATION.
FOR NOW, I'LL JUST SAY THAT IT'S A NEW WEAPON.
統制軍 軍務省
UNIFIED ARMY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
KAMIKAGE RYUJIROU

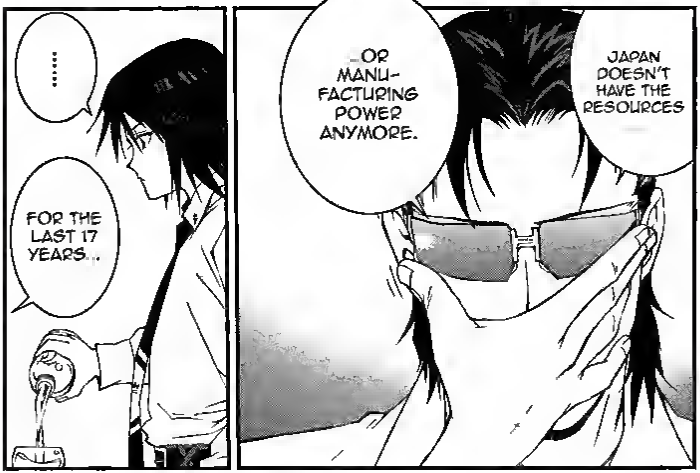
A NEW WEAPON?
.....

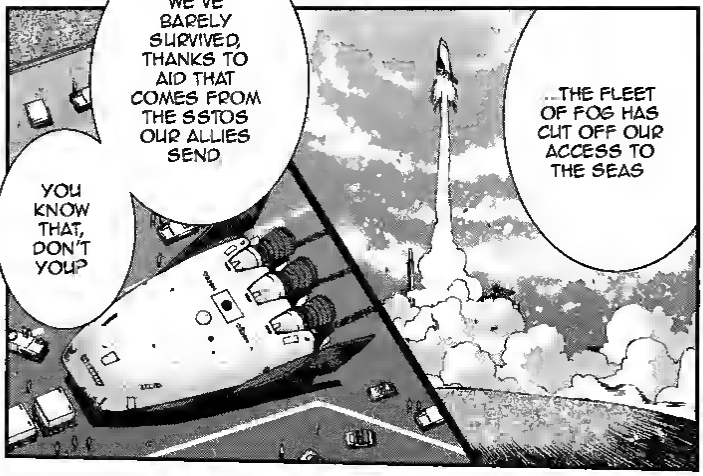

BUT THAT CHANGES NOW.
THIS WEAPON WILL LET US FIGHT THE FLEET OF FOG.
WERE YOUR CORROSIVE TORPEDOES.
UNTIL NOW, THE ONLY WEAPONS THAT COULD DAMAGE THE FLEET OF FOG...

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS...
...I'VE HEARD THAT EVERYWHERE I GO.
BUT EACH TIME...
...IT'S TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING.

THE TESTS ARE COMPLETE
THIS TIME IT'S FOR REAL.


UNFORTU-NATELY, IT'S NOT THAT EASY
WHY?
STRETCH
THEN GET TO WORK ON MANUFAC-TURING IT AND USE IT.

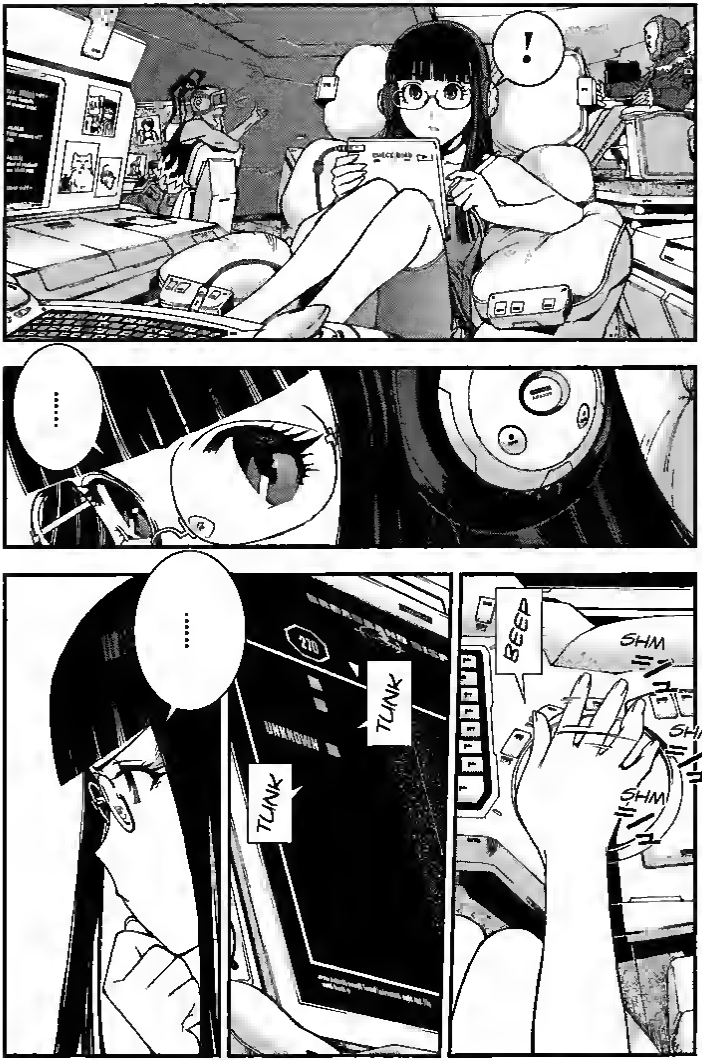

.....
FOR THE LAST 17 YEARS...
...OR MANU-FACTURING POWER ANYMORE.
JAPAN DOESN'T HAVE THE RESOURCES


WE'VE BARELY SURVIVED, THANKS TO AID THAT COMES FROM THE SSTOS OUR ALLIES SEND
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
...THE FLEET OF FOG HAS CUT OFF OUR ACCESS TO THE SEAS

.....

AND SO WE WANT YOU TO TAKE A SAMPLE OF THIS WEAPON, ALONG WITH ITS DOCU-MENTATION...
...TO A COUNTRY THAT CAN MASS-PRODUCE IT.

SO...
WHO ARE YOU SENDING IT TO?
...TO HELP US IN THE GREAT COUNTER-ATTACK
THE WEAPON WILL BE MASS-PRODUCED THERE AND DISTRIBUT-ED...
AMERICA...
TUNK
TUNK
THE UNITED STATES.

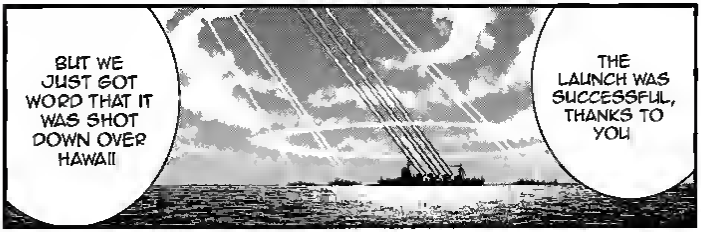

!
.....
.....
TUNK
TUNK
BEEP
SHM
SHM
SHM

VWEEM
KYOUHEI, COME HERE A SEC.
?
BEEP
S-MAIL
FROM:
TO:GUNZ
WE'VE GOT FROGGIES!
KYOUHEI
.....
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

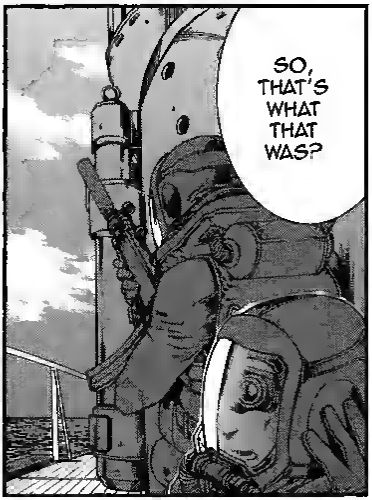
ROGER.
SOU!
ZA-DING!
mail 00543
From Gunzou to Kyohei
SEAL ALL DOORS AND BULKHEADS AND STAND BY.
GRRRM
PHOOM
PHOOM
PHOOM
KA-SHING
KA-SHING
LOCK

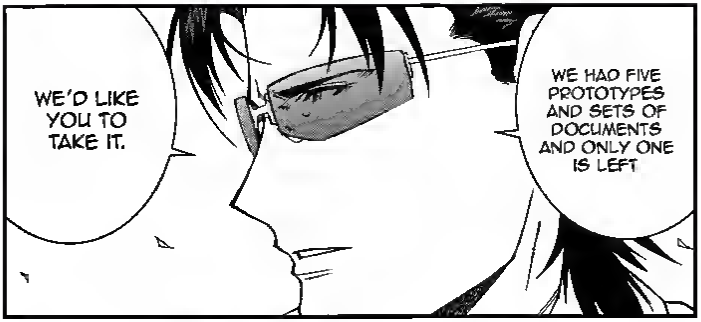
KLANG
KLANG
SO...
YOU WANT US TO CROSS THE PACIFIC?
WITH ALL THE FOG FLEET SHIPS OUT THERE?
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'LL PROVIDE YOU ALL THE SUPPORT WE CAN

YOU WOULDN'T COME TO ME IF YOU HADN'T ALREADY TRIED THAT
YOU CAN'T JUST USE THE SSTO? NO, I GUESS NOT..

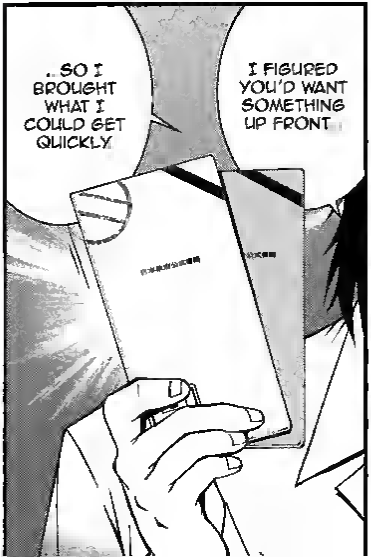

BUT WE JUST GOT WORD THAT IT WAS SHOT DOWN OVER HAWAII
THE LAUNCH WAS SUCCESSFUL, THANKS TO YOU

..BUT NOTHING'S WORKED.
WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING WE CAN THINK OF..

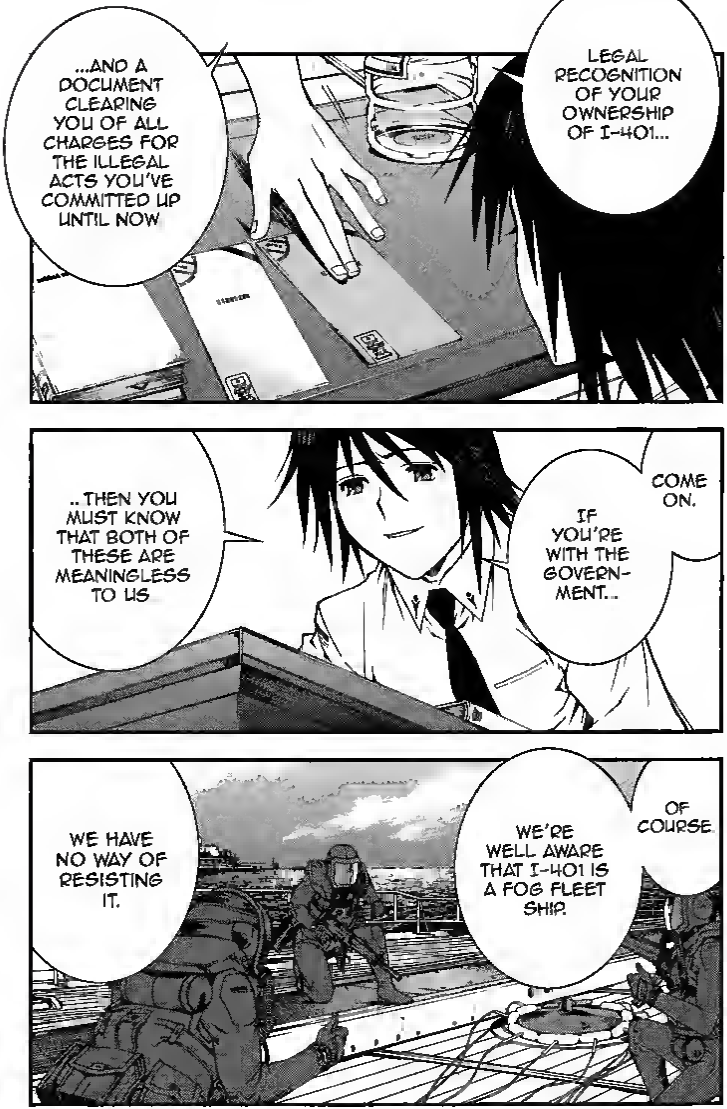

SO, THAT'S WHAT THAT WAS?

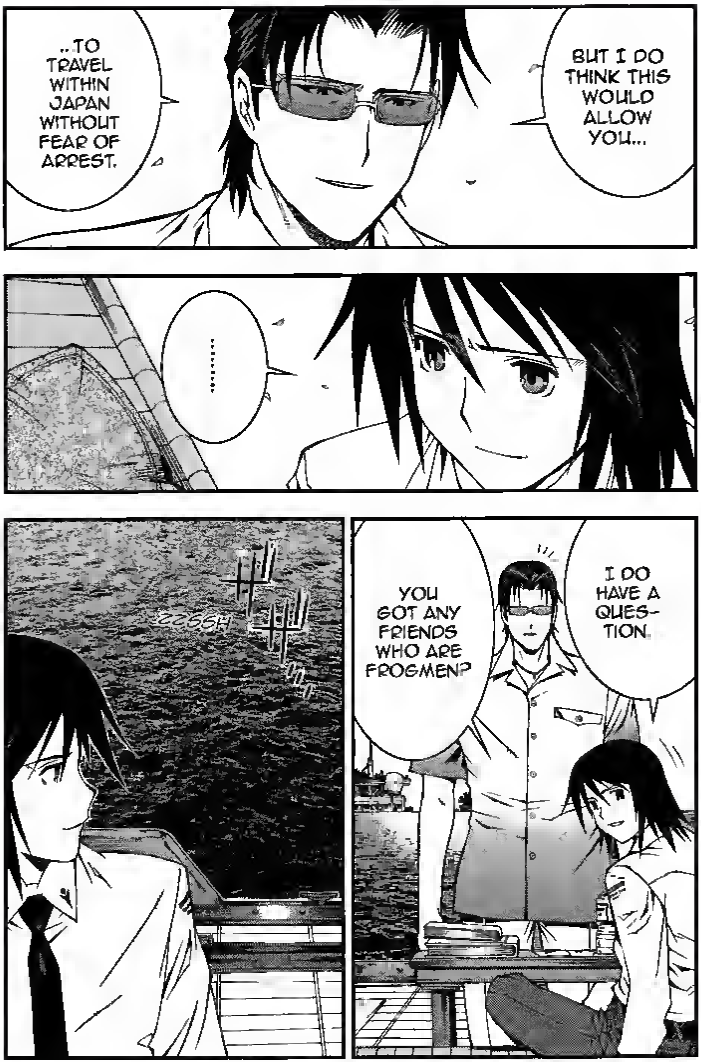

WE HAD FIVE PROTOTYPES AND SETS OF DOCUMENTS AND ONLY ONE IS LEFT
WE'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE IT.

EVEN IF I DO TAKE IT...
...WHAT'S THE PAY?


I FIGURED YOU'D WANT SOMETHING UP FRONT
.. SO I BROUGHT WHAT I COULD GET QUICKLY.

SO, ACTU-ALLY...
THAT'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
TUNK
TUNK


LEGAL RECOGNITION OF YOUR OWNERSHIP OF I-401...
...AND A DOCUMENT CLEARING YOU OF ALL CHARGES FOR THE ILLEGAL ACTS YOU'VE COMMITTED UP UNTIL NOW
COME ON.
IF YOU'RE WITH THE GOVERNMENT...
..THEN YOU MUST KNOW THAT BOTH OF THESE ARE MEANINGLESS TO US
OF COURSE
WE'RE WELL AWARE THAT I-401 IS A FOG FLEET SHIP.
WE HAVE NO WAY OF RESISTING IT.


..TO TRAVEL WITHIN JAPAN WITHOUT FEAR OF ARREST.
BUT I DO THINK THIS WOULD ALLOW YOU...
.....
ZZSSH
I DO HAVE A QUES-TION.
YOU GOT ANY FRIENDS WHO ARE FROGMEN?

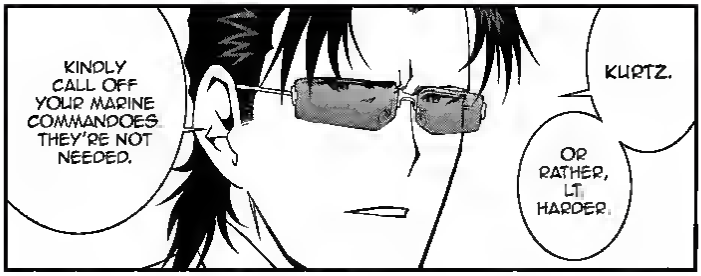
.....
SPLASH
THERE'S ONE, YES.
I'LL TALK TO HIM.

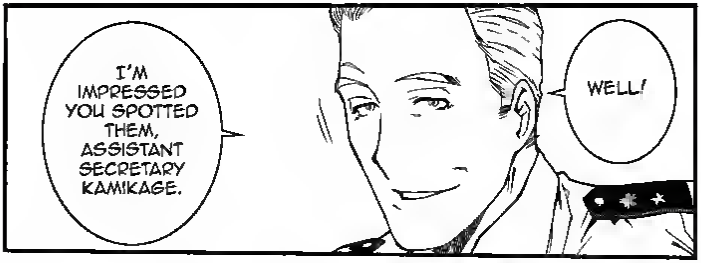
WHETHER YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THE JOB OR NOT...
.. I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU CAME TO YOKOSUKA.
THE REST OF IT IS CLASSIFIED, UNFORTUNATELY.
TLINK
TLINK
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
NOT AT ALL
TLINK
TLINK
TLINK
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'D LIKE YOU TO TRANSPORT FOR US
YOKOSUKA
.....

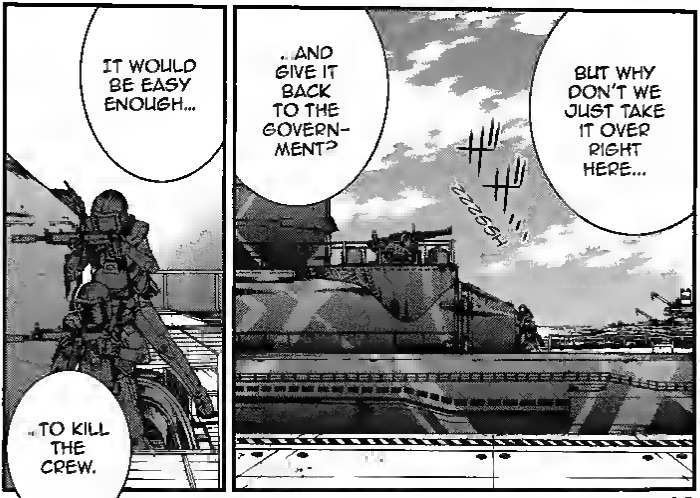
IT MIGHT BE NICE TO SEE SOME OF YOUR OLD SCHOOL CHUMS.
YOUR OLD ALMA MATER, THE ONE YOU DROPPED OUT OF, IS STILL THERE.
NOT TO MENTION..
..I HAVE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT CAPTAIN SHOUZOU AS WELL

A MEMORIAL HAS BEEN PUT UP IN THE REMAINS OF FACILITY 4.
YOU SHOULD GO VISIT AT LEAST ONCE.
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
TUNK
.....
HSSZZ
IONA...
HOW MANY CORROSIVE TORPEDOES DO WE HAVE LEFT?
ZZSSH

WE HAVE...
...EIGHT TOTAL.
.....
WELL? IS HE COMING?
HE IS BUT MORE IMPORTANT...
TUNK
TUNK

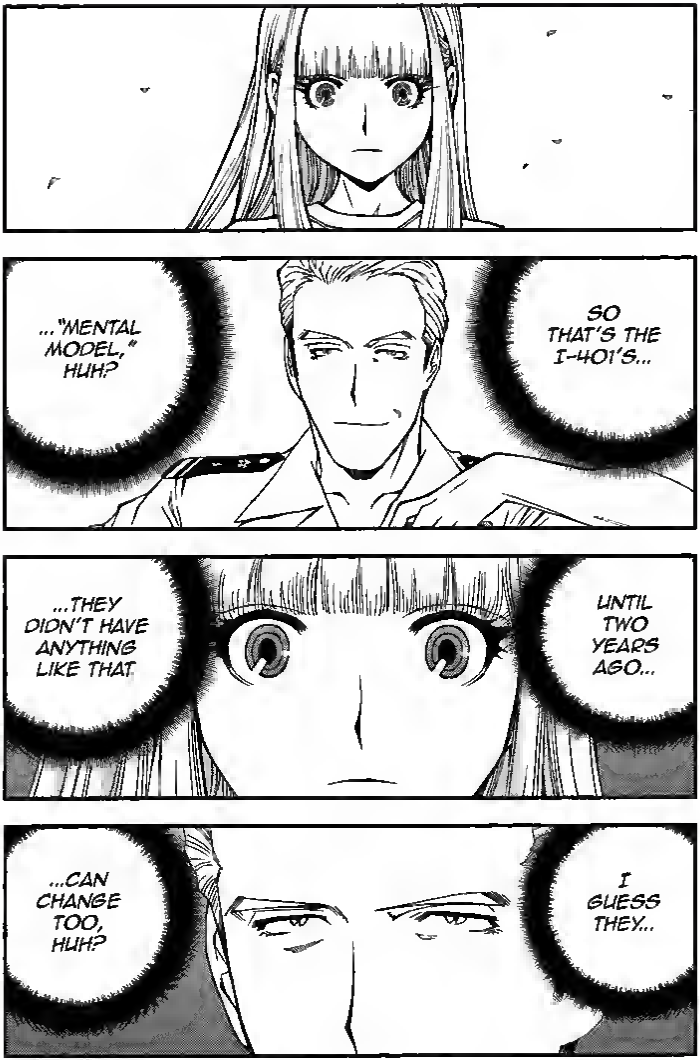

KINDLY CALL OFF YOUR MARINE COMMANDOES. THEY'RE NOT NEEDED.
KURTZ.
OR RATHER, LT. HARDER.

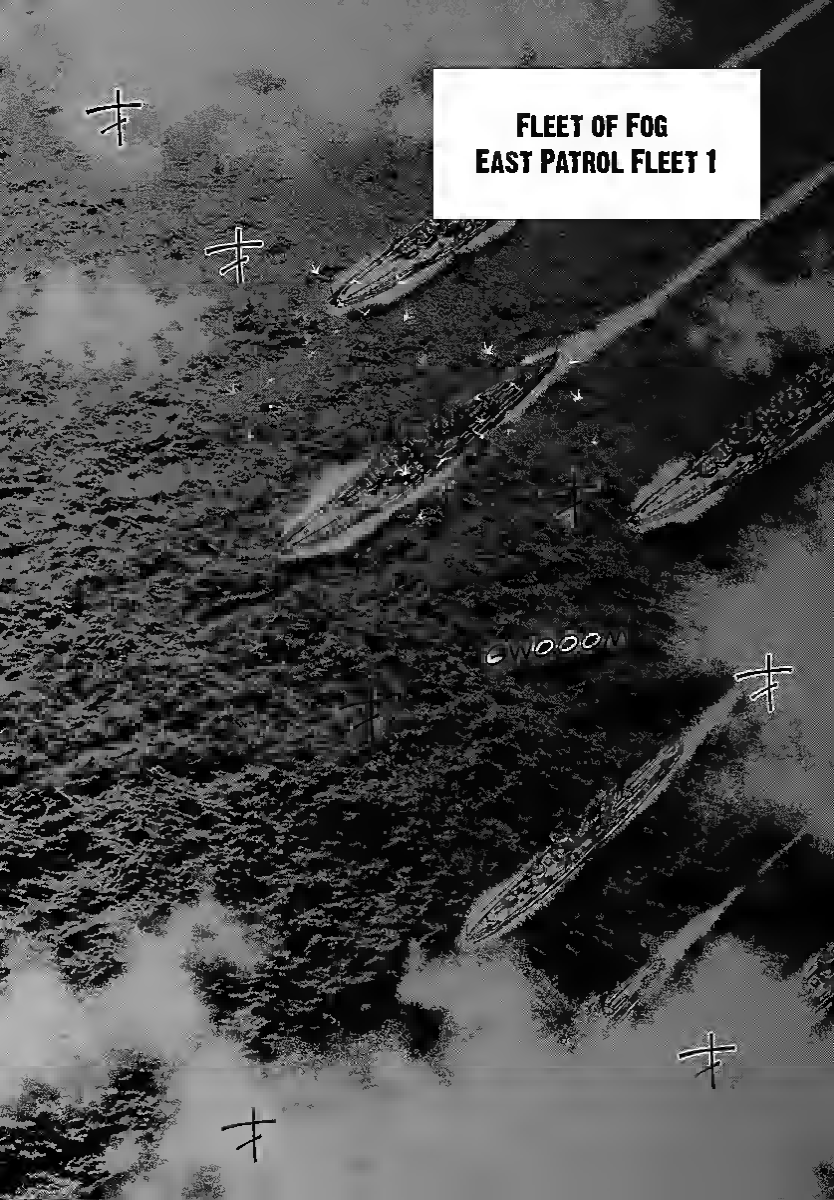

I'M IMPRESSED YOU SPOTTED THEM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY KAMIKAGE.
WELL!

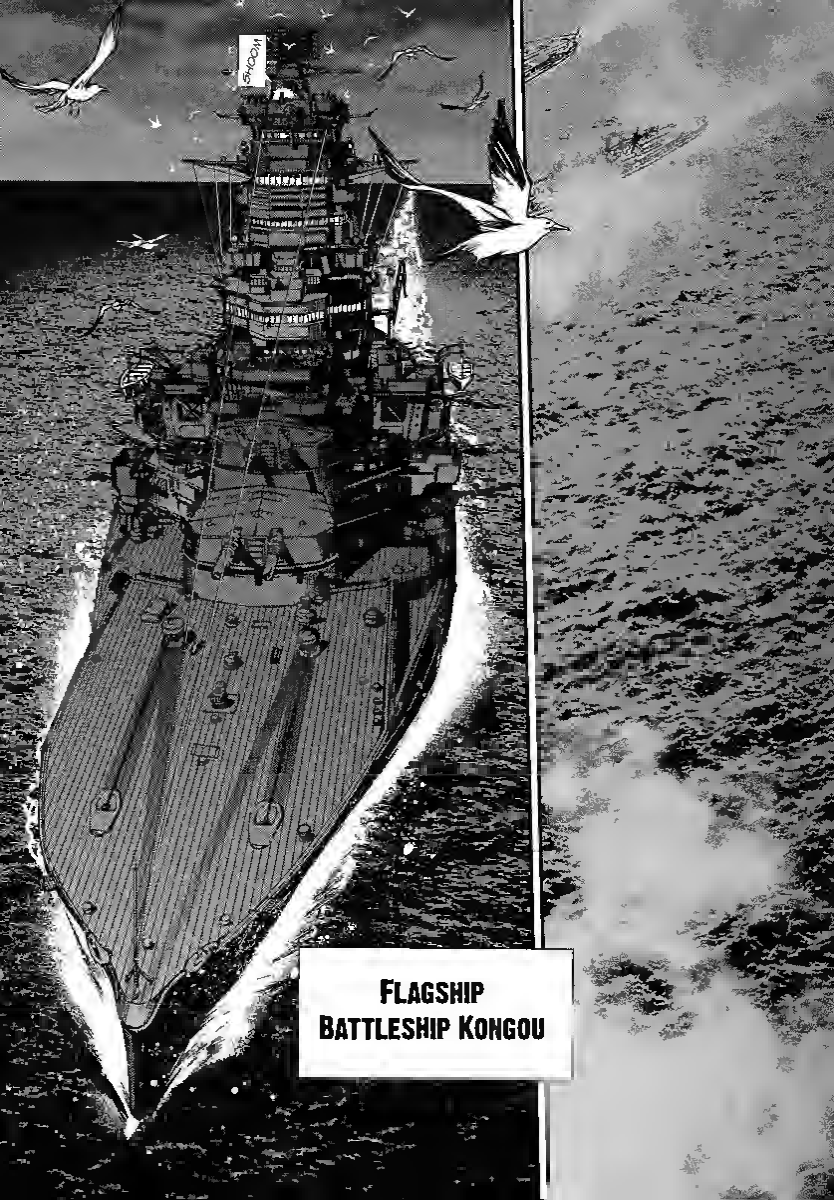

IT WOULD BE EASY ENOUGH...
..TO KILL THE CREW.
..AND GIVE IT BACK TO THE GOVERN-MENT?
BUT WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE IT OVER RIGHT HERE...
HSSSSH!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL LISTEN TO US.
SHE ONLY LISTENS TO THEM.
TUNK
THE I-401 HAS A MIND OF HER OWN.
UN-FORTUNATELY, LIEUTENANT, THAT'S A NO-GO.
TUP
TUP
THE FACT IS, RIGHT NOW THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN CONTROL THE I-401.
THAT'S SPECULATIVE AT BEST.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHICH IS EASIER.
WOULD YOU RATHER NEGOTIATE WITH A HUMAN, OR A BEING WHOSE THOUGHT PROCESSES AND MOTIVATIONS ARE A COMPLETE MYSTERY?

YOU'VE GOT A POINT
.....
AND IF WE CAN DO IT ANY TIME, THERE'S NO NEED TO DO IT NOW
IF WE WANT TO TAKE IT BY FORCE, WE CAN DO THAT ANY TIME.
TELL THEM TO FALL BACK.
CONTACT THE UNIT
ZZZSSH


...“MENTAL MODEL,” HUH?
SO THAT’S THE I-401’S...
...THEY DIDN’T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO...
...CAN CHANGE TOO, HUH?
I GUESS THEY...


FLEET OF FOG
EAST PATROL FLEET 1
GWOOOM

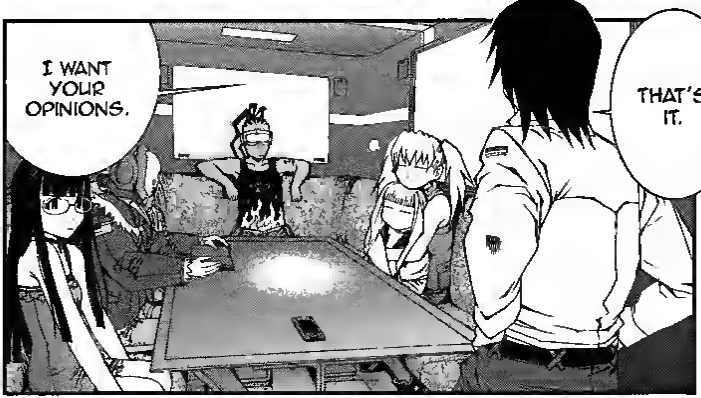

SHOOM
Flagship
Battleship Kongou

SHOOOM
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO BEING IN THIS BODY.

THE SENSATIONS I'M FEELING AREN'T BAD, EITHER
YAMATO WAS RIGHT.

I SEE, SO 401 IS ON THE MOVE?
THAT'S FINE. IF SHE'S HEADING NORTH...
I'LL LET NAGATO'S FLEET DEAL WITH HER.
TAKAO'S AVAILABLE TOO.
WHOOM
WHOOM
HOW TEDIOUS.
SHOOOM

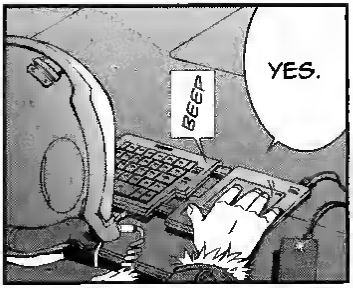
YOU SHOULD GO VISIT.
AT LEAST ONCE.
BEEP BEEP
BRIEFING ROOM

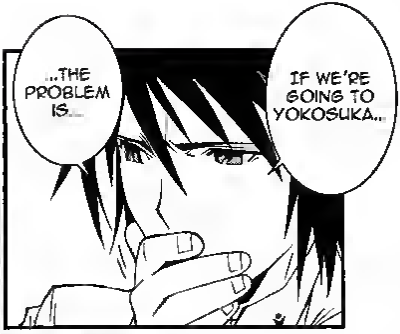

I WANT YOUR OPINIONS.
THAT'S IT.

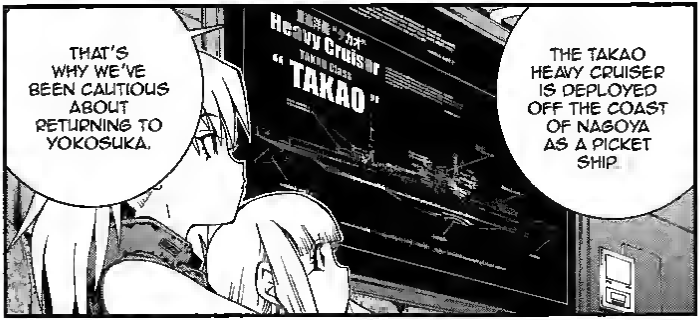
Yup yup.
I'M ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR AMMUNITION
ALL WE'VE GOT IS JUNK FROM THE BLACK MARKET.

I'LL AGREE WITH GOING TO YOKOSUKA.
...BUT SUPPLIES ARE ALWAYS A TOP CONCERN.
WE GOT FOOD AS PART OF THE PAYMENT FOR OUR LAST JOB...

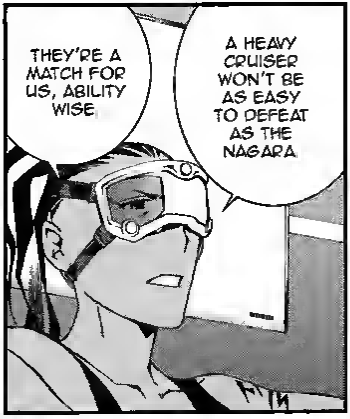
WE CAN'T DO REAL INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE AT SASEBO.
I'M WITH SOU.
AND HAVING GOVERNMENT APPROVAL COULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY.
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO HEAD BACK TO OUR HOME PORT.
. AND THE NUMBER OF QUESTION MARKS REALLY BUGS ME.
I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN A CHANCE TO REALLY ANALYZE 401...
I... THIS SHIP IS MY HOME.
I'LL GO WHEREVER IT GOES.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHIZUKA? WE KNOW YOKOSUKA, BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE.
I'M DOWN WITH WHATEVER.


YES.
BEEP


IF WE'RE GOING TO YOKOSUKA...
...THE PROBLEM IS...


THE TAKAO HEAVY CRUISER IS DEPLOYED OFF THE COAST OF NAGOYA AS A PICKET SHIP.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN CAUTIOUS ABOUT RETURNING TO YOKOSUKA.

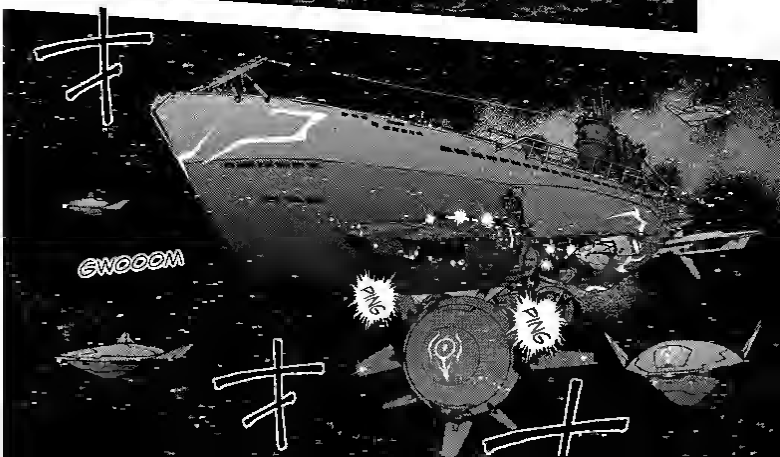
WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF CORROSIVE TORPEDOES LEFT, EITHER.
I'D RATHER NOT FIGHT IF WE CAN AVOID IT.

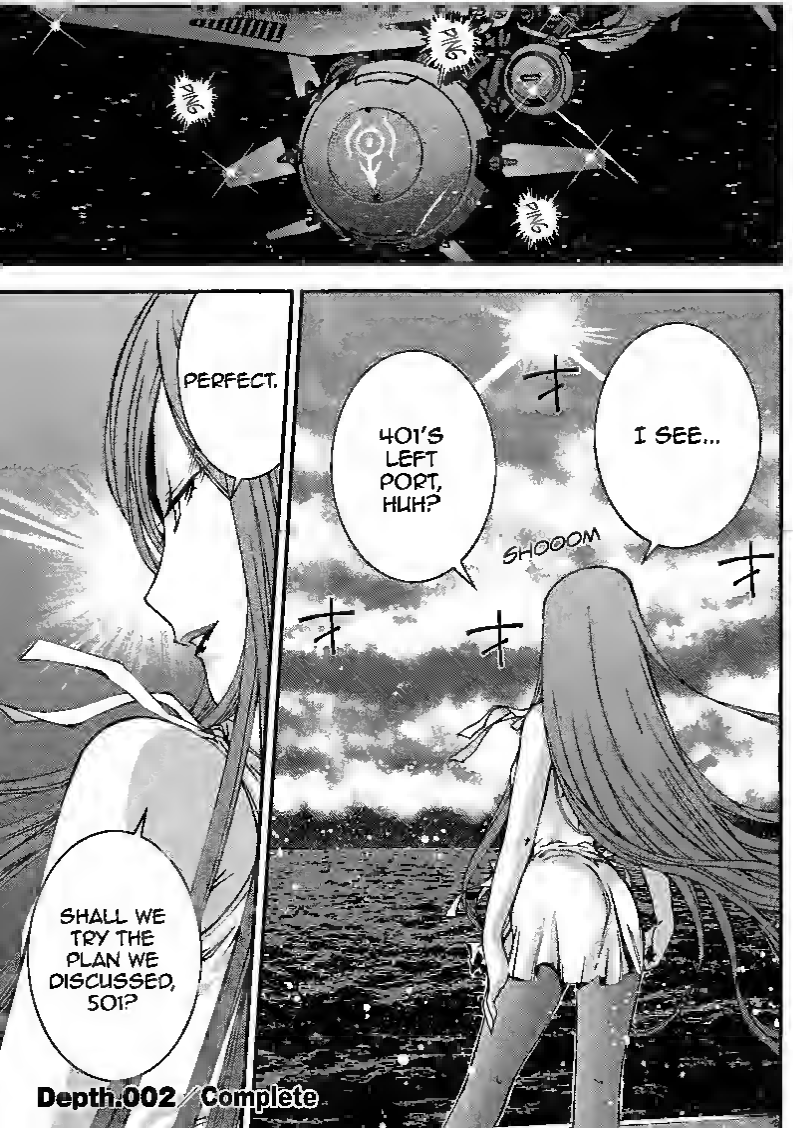

A HEAVY CRUISER WON'T BE AS EASY TO DEFEAT AS THE NAGARA.
THEY'RE A MATCH FOR US, ABILITY WISE.

Weather chart
WE USE IT TO SHIELD US AS WE LEAVE PORT AND HEAD NORTH..
TYPHOON 11 IS CURRENTLY APPROACHING
890 HECTO-PASCALS, AND A TOP WIND SPEED OF 75 METERS PER SECOND.
SO HERE'S THE PLAN.
TAP
TAP
TAP
WE'LL BE CUTTING IT REAL CLOSE
..AND BREAK THROUGH THE TAKAO'S PICKET LINE.
OKAY, LET'S GO.
IT'S WORTH A TRY.
.....

CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG

CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
CHUG
PING
PING


GWOOOM
PING
PING


PING
PING
PING
I SEE...
401'S LEFT PORT, HUH?
SHOOOM
PERFECT.
SHALL WE TRY THE PLAN WE DISCUSSED, 501?

CHARACTERS

I-401 Crew

Shizuka Hoozumi

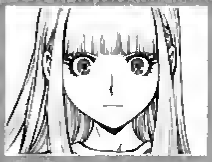
Runs the soner end sensor systems. She's eboerd the I-401 for e differeet reeson then the others.

Sou Oribe

The I-401's XO. Gunzou's clessmete. For some reeson he elweys weers e mesk.

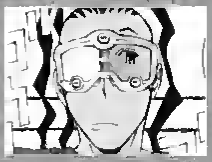
Iori Watanuki

Gunzou's clessmete. She hendles the engine end technicel systems. Gets elong well with Ione.



Iona

The mental model of the I-401. Why she helps humanity is a mystery.



Kyouhei Kashihara

Gunzou's clessmete. He is elweys bright end cheerful. In cherge of the fire control systems.

Gunzou Chihaya

Ceptein of the submerine I-401. A former student et the Merine Techeicel Acedemy. He presently fights with Ione eboerd the I-401. It is seid thet his fether, Shouzou Chiheya, betreyed humenity end joined the Fleet of Fog—his whereebouts ere unknown.

Fleet of Fog

Takao

Mental Model of the heavy cruiser Takao. She fought I-401 off the coast of Nagoya.

Kongou

Mental Model of the Battleship Kongou. Very humanlike, and easily bored.

Japanese Govennment

Ryuujirou Kamikage

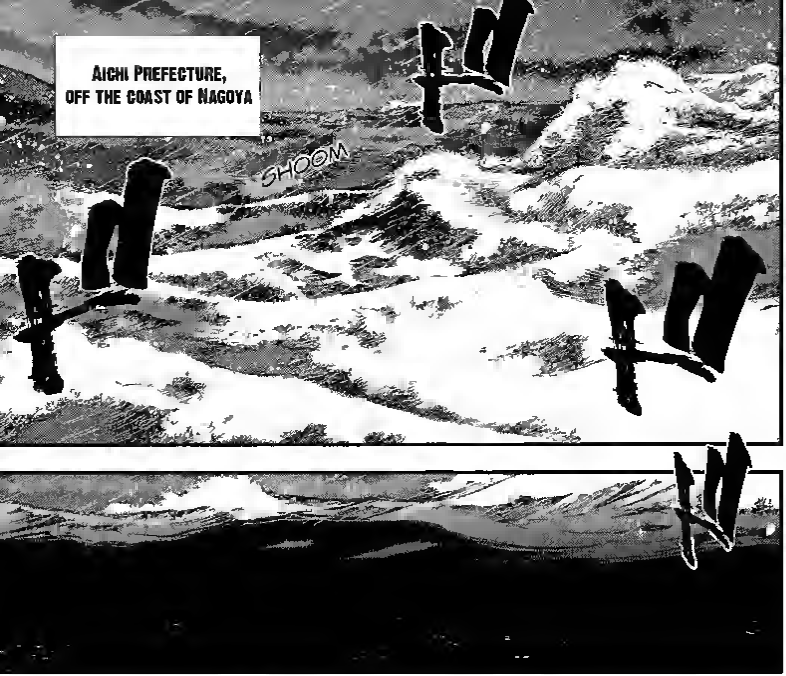
Wants to entrust the vibration warhead to the I-401.

Kurtz Harder

An American marine lieutenant left behind in Japan.

Hiroshi Uragami

Vice Admiral in the Unified Navy. He fought the Fleet of Fog 17 years ago.



Depth.003

BEFORE WE CROSS THE PACIFIC, I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
SO...
TUNK
TUNK

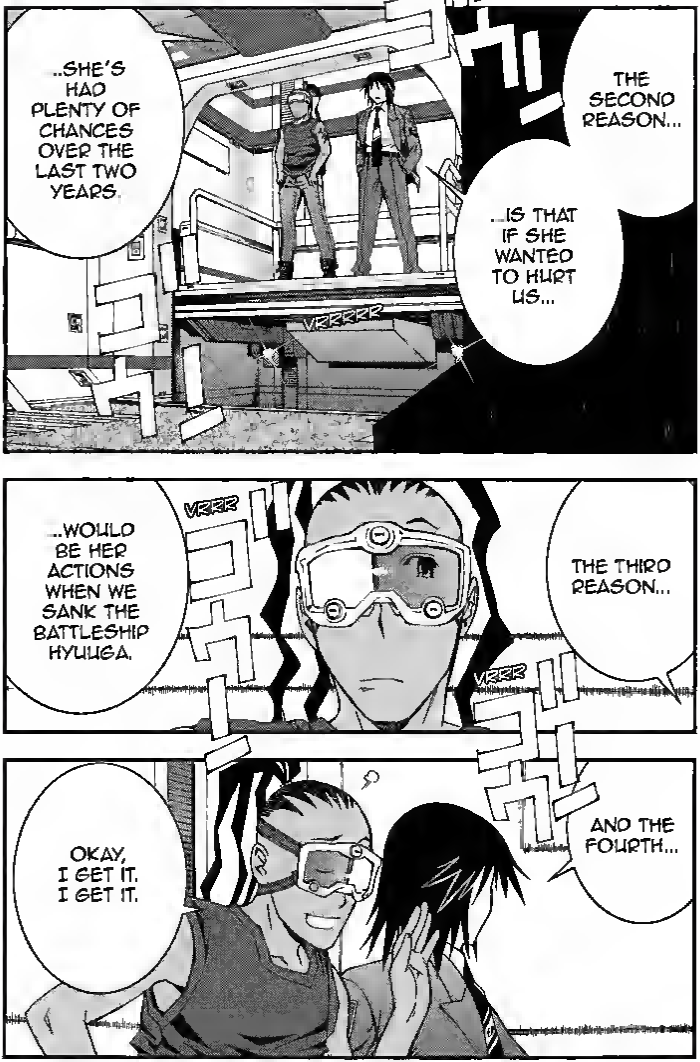
THIS HAS BEEN A CONCERN FOR A WHILE.
WE HAVEN'T SETTLED ON GOING YET.
TUNK
TUNK

IS THIS ABOUT IONA?
I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME TO THE BATHROOM...
TUNK
TUNK

IONA...
I KNOW.
TUNK
TUNK
YOU'VE NOTICED, RIGHT?
YEAH. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT HER?
TUNK
TUNK
...WHENEVER SHE GIVES US INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOG
...IS ACCESSING SOME KIND OF DATABASE...
WE SAW THAT IN THE FIGHT WITH NAGARA
YEAH.

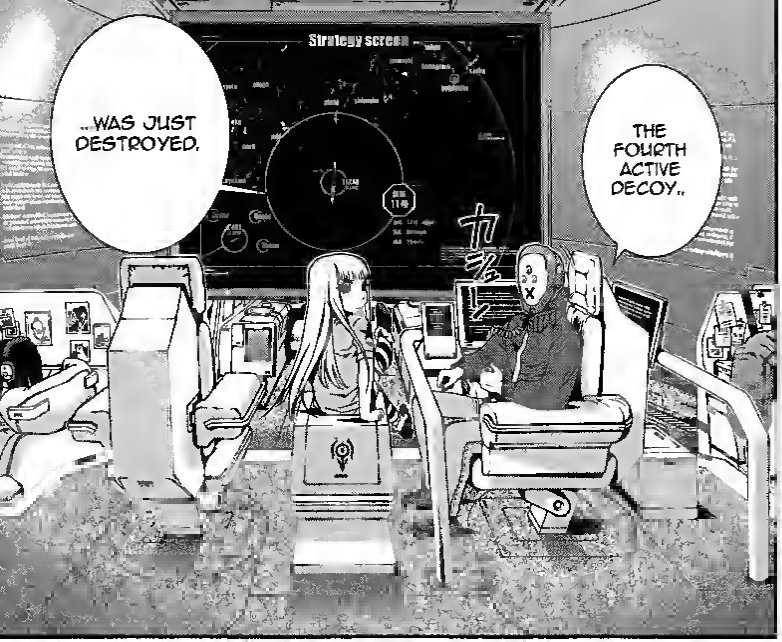
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IT'S AN INTERNAL DATABASE...
...OR...
TUNK
TUNK
OR...
...WHETHER SHE'S STILL CAPABLE OF ACCESSING THE FOG NETWORK.
.....
TUNK
TUNK
...YEAH.
IF IT'S THE FORMER, HER DATABASE IS TWO YEARS OUT OF DATE.
TUNK
TUNK
BUT IF IT'S THE LATTER, THEN WE HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM, RIGHT?
TUNK

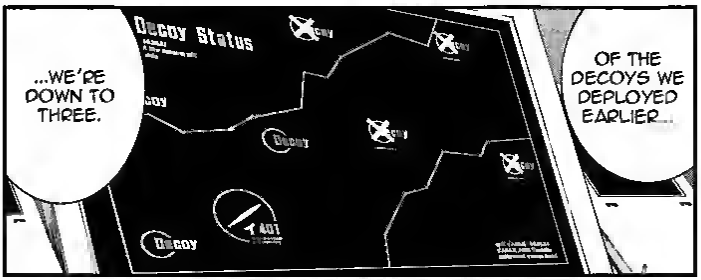
I'M PRETTY SURE..
...IONA IS EITHER STILL CONNECTED TO THE FOG...
...OR POSSIBLY IS BEING ALLOWED TO ACCESS THEIR NETWORKS.
TUNK
THEN...
...IS THAT HER DATA IS ALWAYS ACCURATE AND UP TO DATE...
BEEP
THE FIRST REASON FOR THAT...
TUNK
I DON'T KNOW THE REASON.
BUT I TRUST THIS SHIP.
AND I TRUST ITS CORE, IONA, AS WELL.
VRRR


...SHE'S HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.
VRRRR
THE SECOND REASON...
...IS THAT IF SHE WANTED TO HURT US...
...WOULD BE HER ACTIONS WHEN WE SANK THE BATTLESHIP HYUUGA.
VRRR
THE THIRD REASON...
VRRR
OKAY, I GET IT. I GET IT.
AND THE FOURTH...

ME? GO BACK?
YOU COULD EASILY RETURN TO THE SCHOOL
YOU'VE GOT VALUABLE COMBAT EXPERIENCE.
IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED, YOU CAN GET OFF AT YOKOSUKA.
KLANK
NO WAY AM I MISSING ALL THE FUN OUT HERE!
HA HA! THAT'S HILARIOUS!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

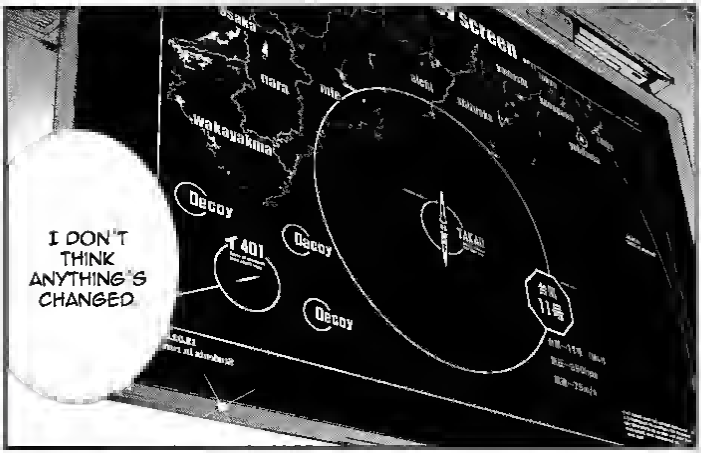
SLAM
!
WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
SLAT


Strategy screen
...WAS JUST DESTROYED.
THE FOURTH ACTIVE DECOY..

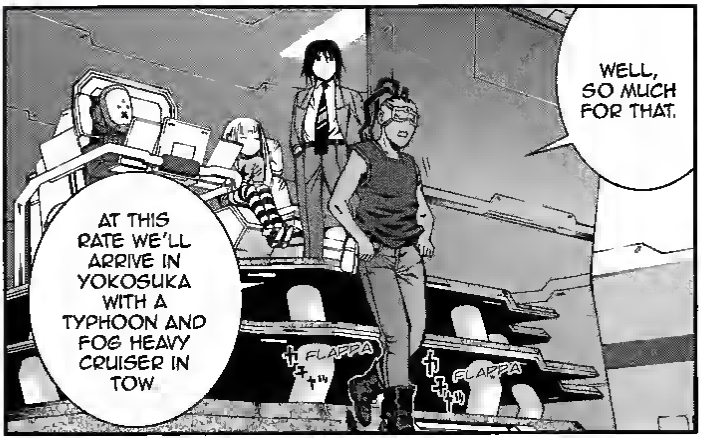

Decoy Status
...WE'RE DOWN TO THREE.
OF THE DECOYS WE DEPLOYED EARLIER...

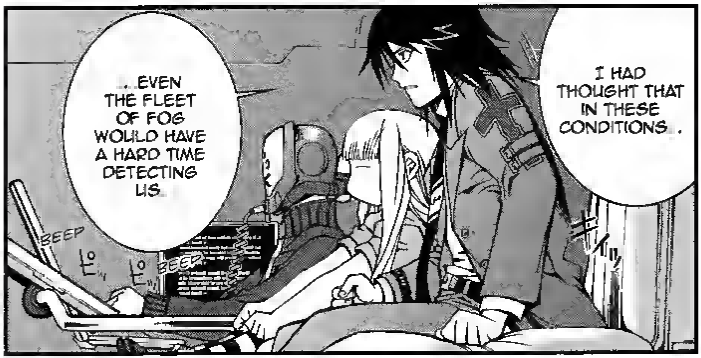
WHAT'S THE TAKAO DOING?
.....

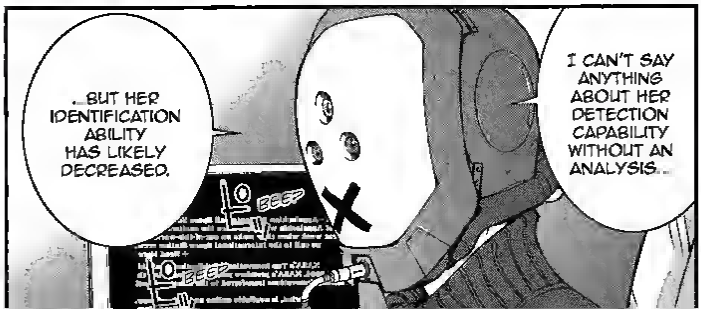
IT'S RIGHT ON TOP OF US.
AND THE TYPHOON?
THE TAKAO IS STILL TRAVELING INSIDE THE EYE OF THE STORM.

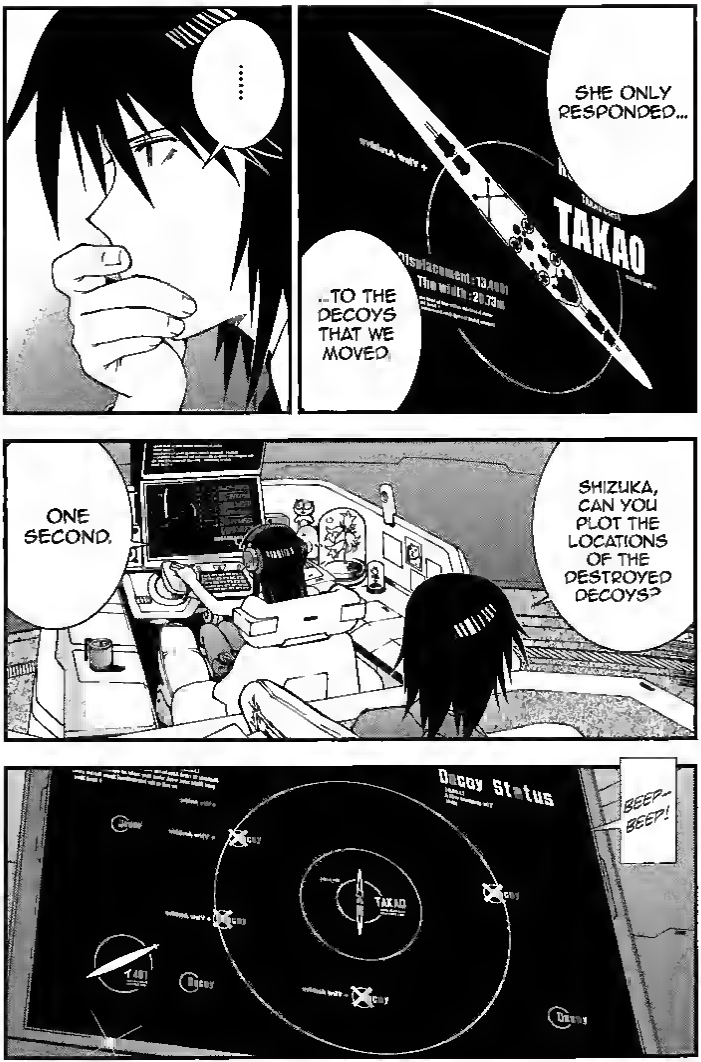

I DON'T THINK ANYTHING'S CHANGED.
Osaka
nara
wakayama
Decoy
Decoy
Decoy
T 401
TAKAO
旗艦 11号

.....

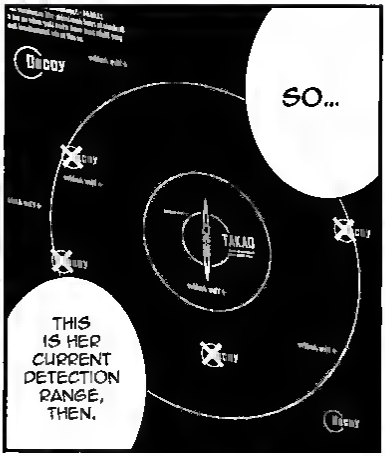

WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT.
AT THIS RATE WE'LL ARRIVE IN YOKOSUKA WITH A TYPHOON AND FOG HEAVY CRUISER IN TOW.
FLAPPA
FLAPPA

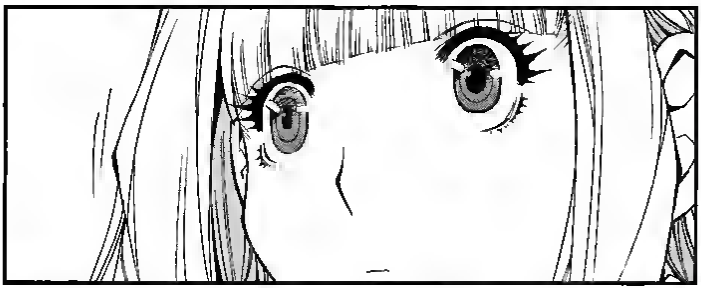

I HAD THOUGHT THAT IN THESE CONDITIONS...
...EVEN THE FLEET OF FOG WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME DETECTING US.
BEEP
BEEP

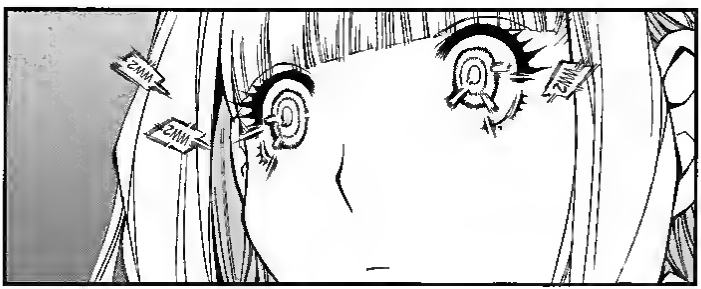

I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HER DETECTION CAPABILITY WITHOUT AN ANALYSIS...
...BUT HER IDENTIFICATION ABILITY HAS LIKELY DECREASED.
BEEP
BEEP

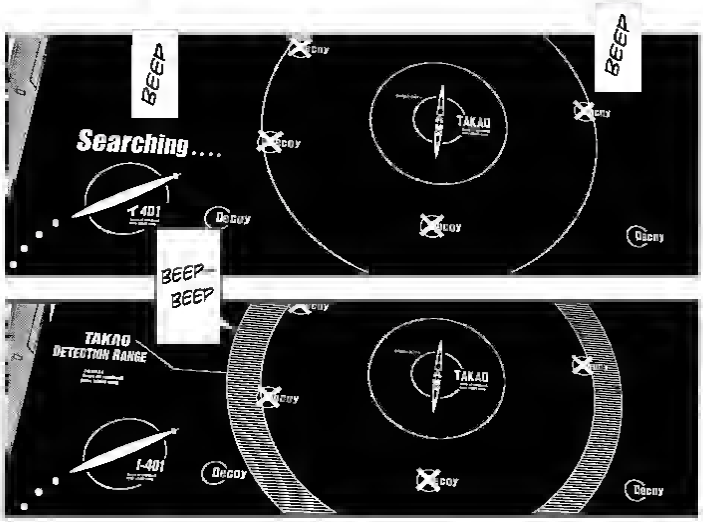

.....
SHE ONLY RESPONDED...
TAKAO
...TO THE DECOYS THAT WE MOVED.
ONE SECOND.
SHIZUKA, CAN YOU PLOT THE LOCATIONS OF THE DESTROYED DECOYS?
Decoy Status
TAKAO
BEEP-BEEP!

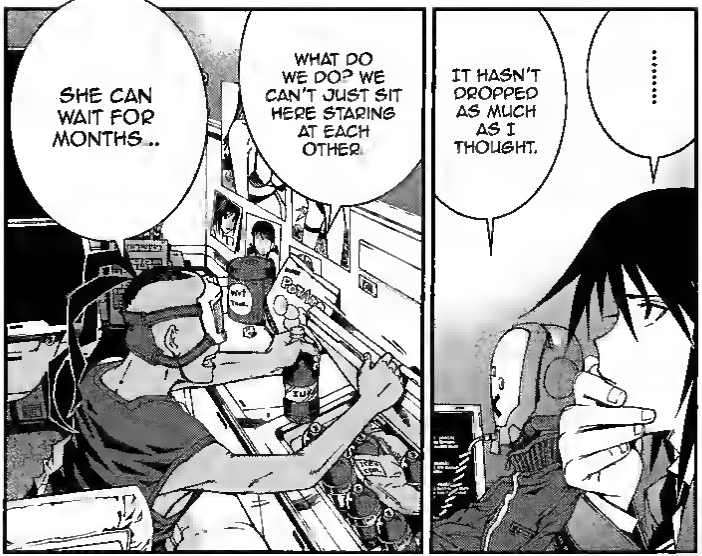
...OVERLAY HER ORIGINAL DETECTION RANGE FOR ME.
IONA...
CREAK

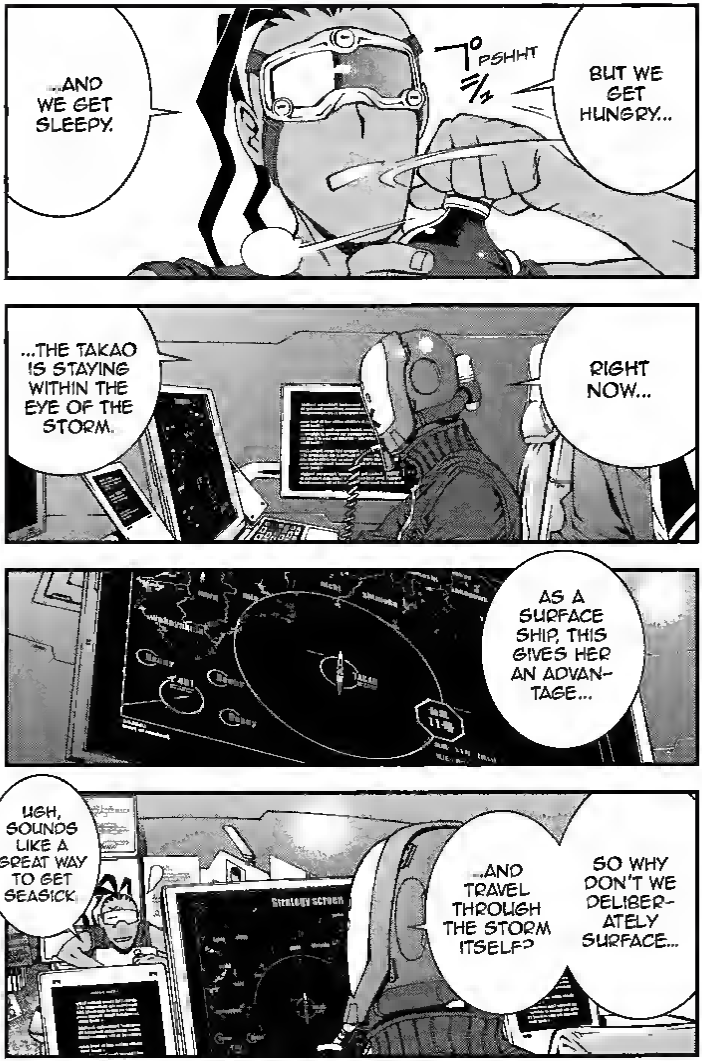

SO...
Decoy
TAKAO
THIS IS HER CURRENT DETECTION RANGE, THEN.

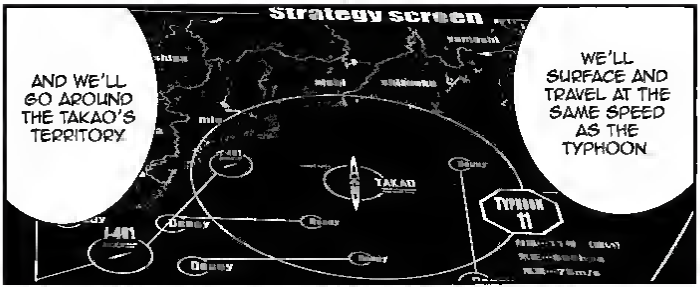


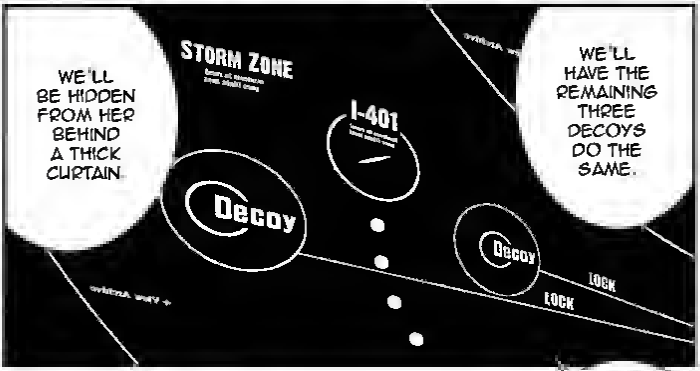

ZMM
ZMM
ZMM

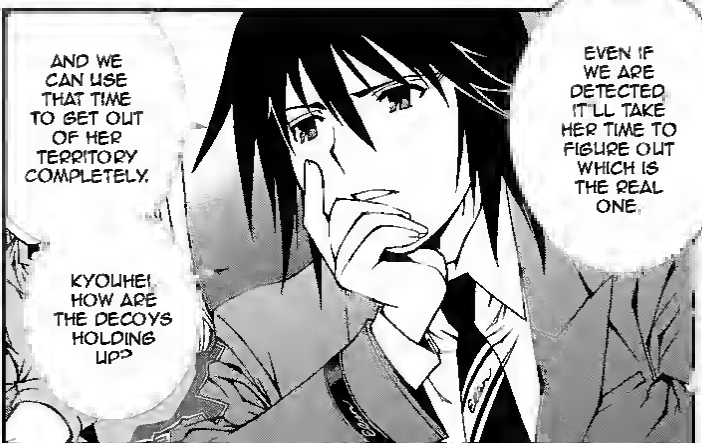

BEEP
Searching....
I-401
Decoy
TAKAO
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP—
BEEP
TAKAO
DETECTION RANGE
I-401
Decoy
TAKAO
Decoy

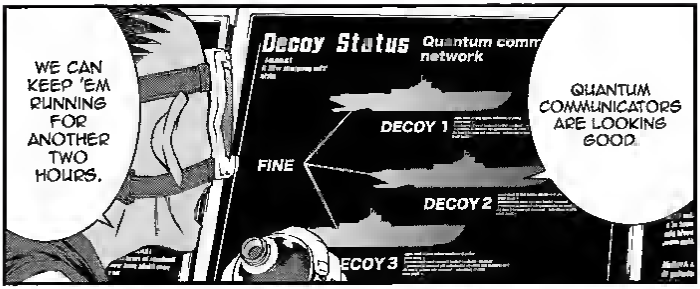

SHE CAN WAIT FOR MONTHS...
WHAT DO WE DO? WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE STARING AT EACH OTHER.
IT HASN'T DROPPED AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT.
.....


...AND WE GET SLEEPY.
PSHHT
BUT WE GET HUNGRY...
...THE TAKAO IS STAYING WITHIN THE EYE OF THE STORM.
RIGHT NOW...
AS A SURFACE SHIP, THIS GIVES HER AN ADVANTAGE...
UGH, SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT WAY TO GET SEASICK.
Strategy screen
...AND TRAVEL THROUGH THE STORM ITSELF?
SO WHY DON'T WE DELIBERATELY SURFACE...

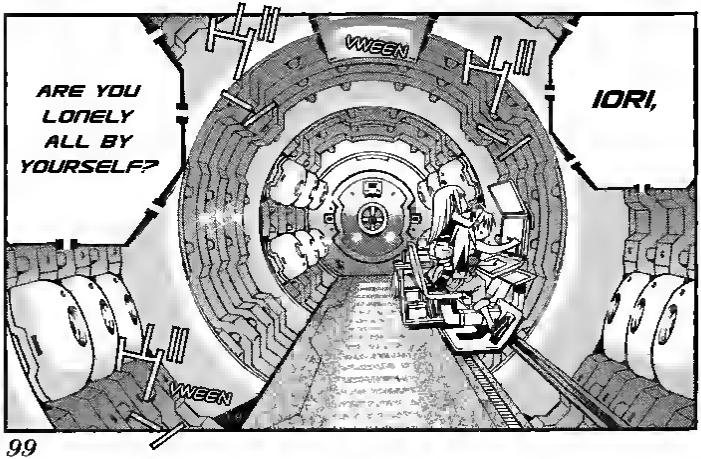

Strategy screen
AND WE'LL GO AROUND THE TAKAO'S TERRITORY.
WE'LL SURFACE AND TRAVEL AT THE SAME SPEED AS THE TYPHOON.
TAKAO
I-401
Decoy
TYPHOON 11

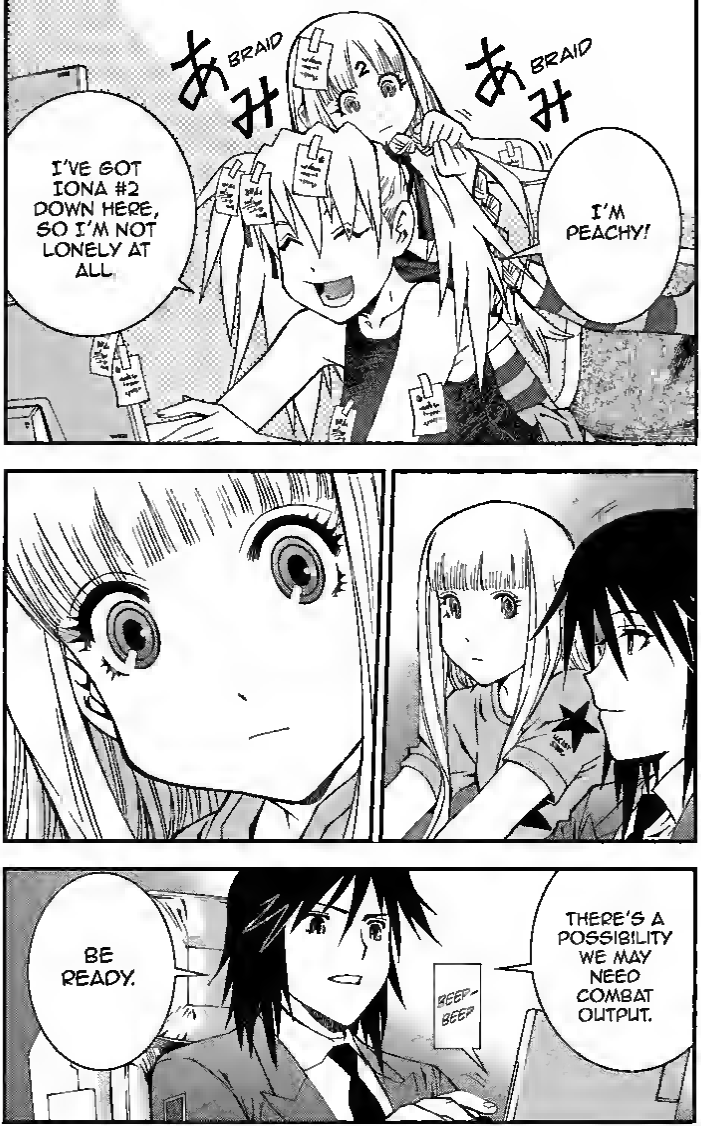

STORM ZONE
WE'LL BE HIDDEN FROM HER BEHIND A THICK CURTAIN.
WE'LL HAVE THE REMAINING THREE DECOYS DO THE SAME.
I-401
Decoy
Decoy
LOCK
LOCK

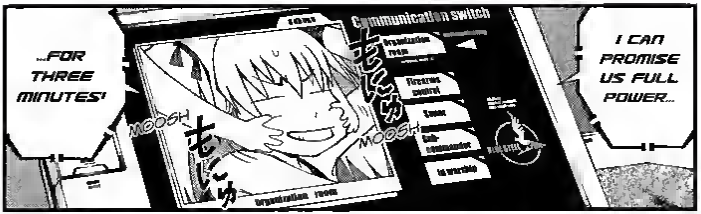

AND WE CAN USE THAT TIME TO GET OUT OF HER TERRITORY COMPLETELY.
EVEN IF WE ARE DETECTED, IT'LL TAKE HER TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHICH IS THE REAL ONE.
KYOUHEI, HOW ARE THE DECOYS HOLDING UP?


WE CAN KEEP 'EM RUNNING FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS.
Decoy Status
Quantum comm network
DECOY 1
FINE
DECOY 2
DECOY 3
QUANTUM COMMUNICATORS ARE LOOKING GOOD.

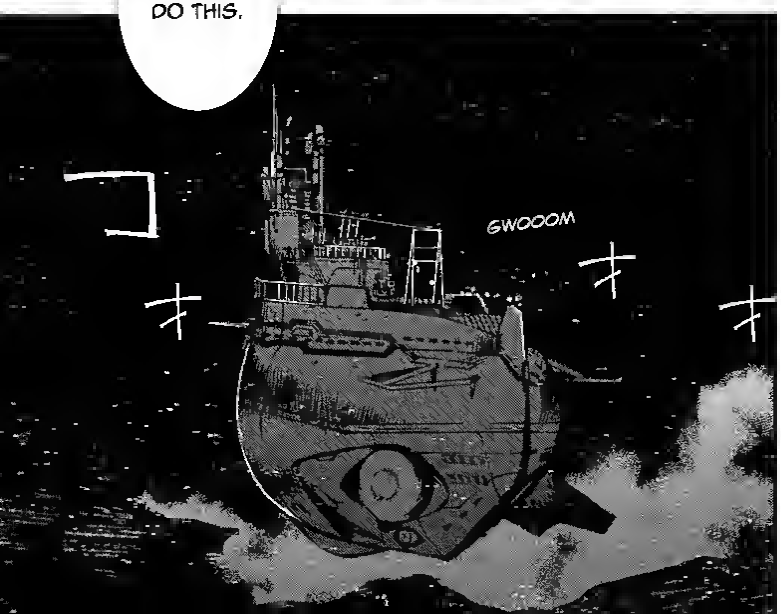
BEEP
WE'LL GO WITH SOU'S PLAN.
OKAY


VWEEN
ARE YOU LONELY ALL BY YOURSELF?
IORI,
VWEEN

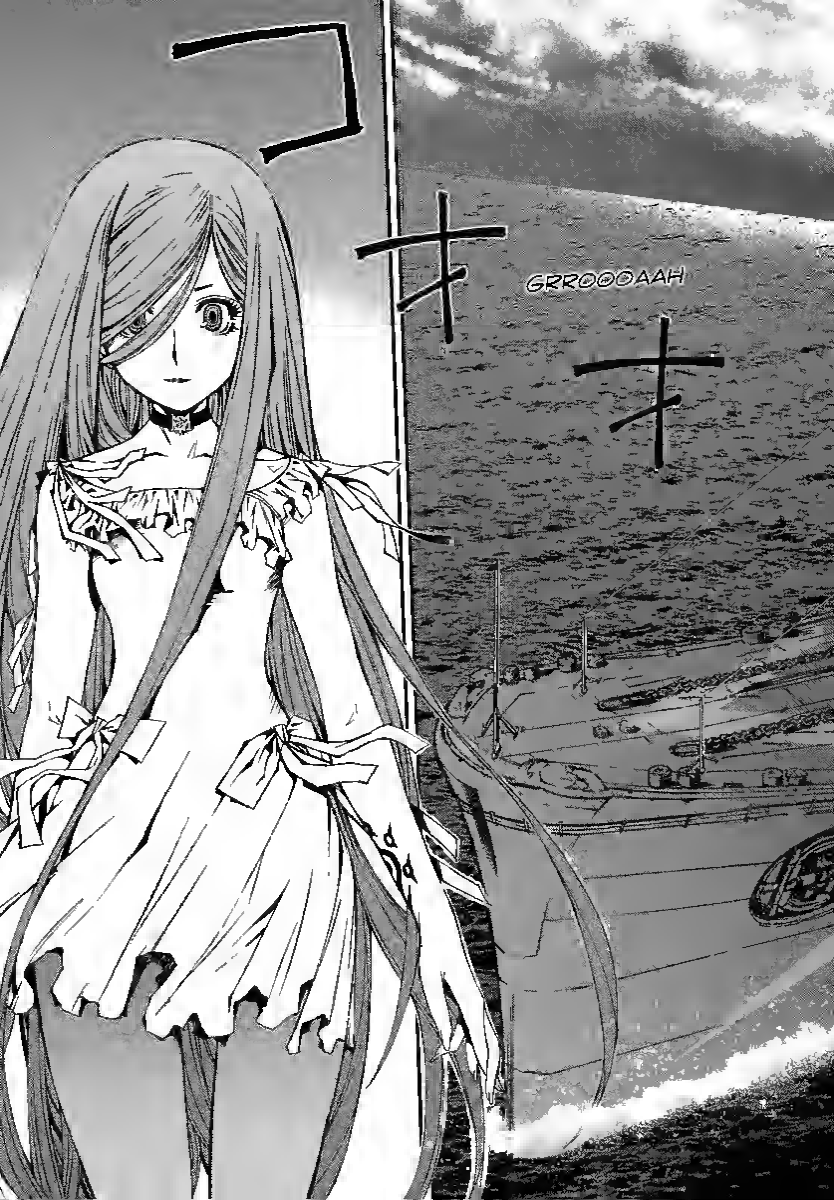

あみ BRAID
あみ BRAID
I'VE GOT IONA #2 DOWN HERE, SO I'M NOT LONELY AT ALL.
I'M PEACHY!
BE READY.
BEEP-BEEP
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY WE MAY NEED COMBAT OUTPUT.

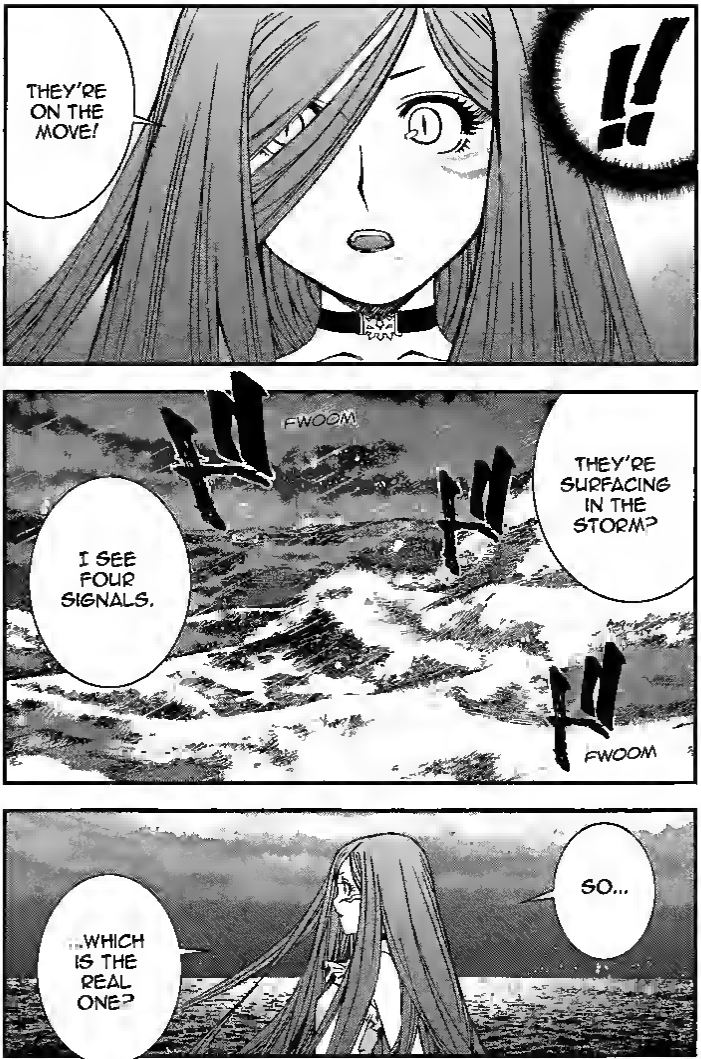

...FOR THREE MINUTES!
MOOSH
MOOSH
Communication switch
Propulsion main
Reverse control
Emergency
Navigation room
I CAN PROMISE US FULL POWER...

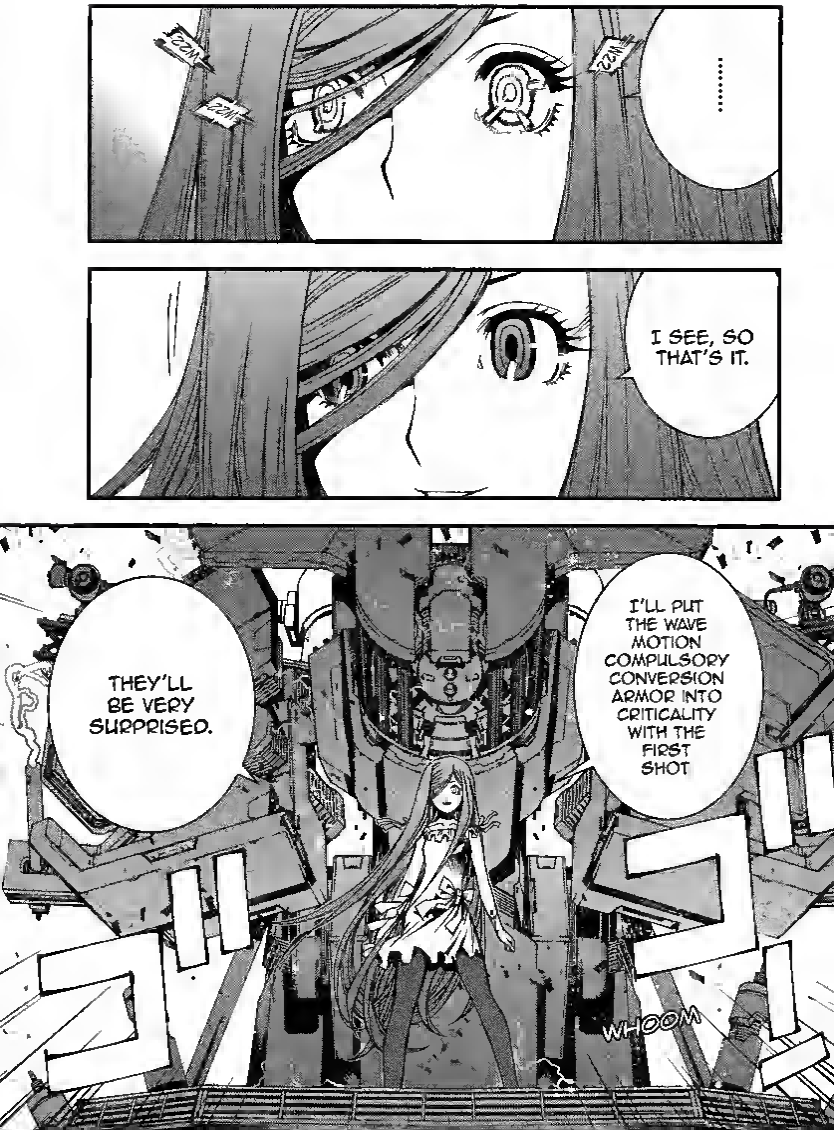
ROGER.


LET'S DO THIS.
GWOOOM

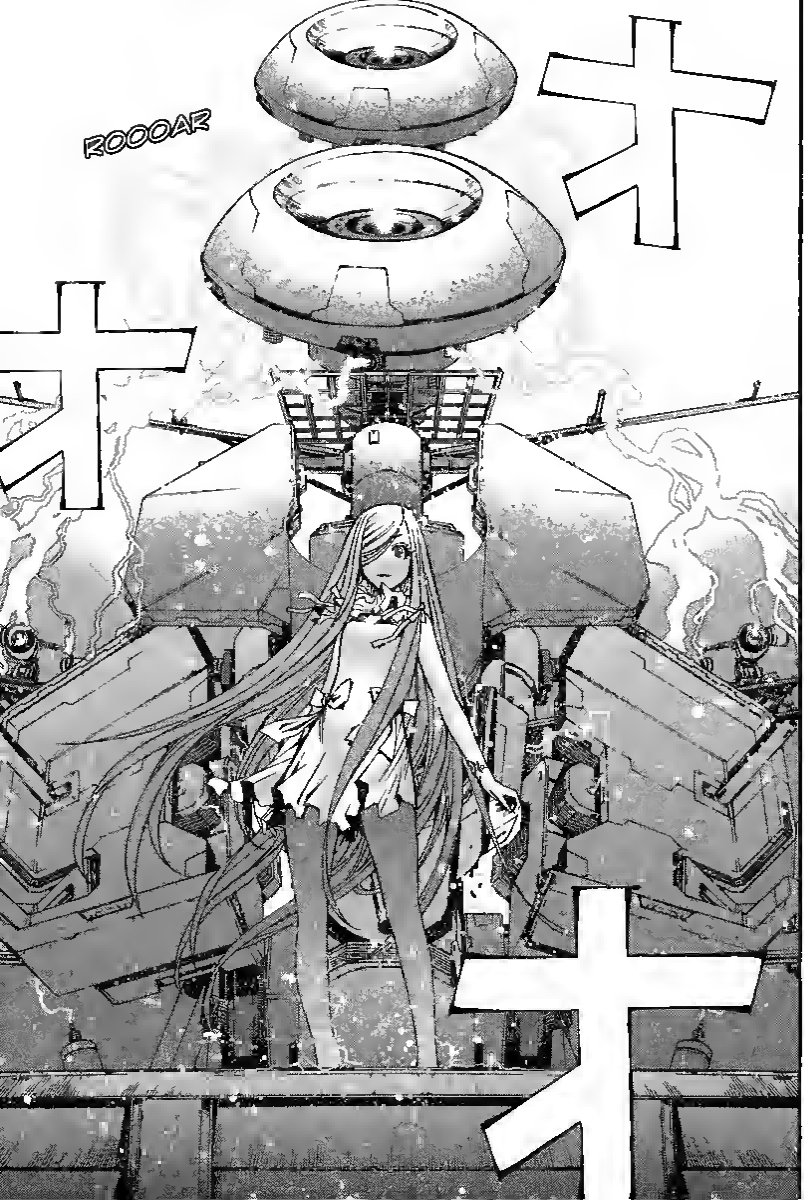
FLEET OF FOG
HEAVY CRUISER TAKAO

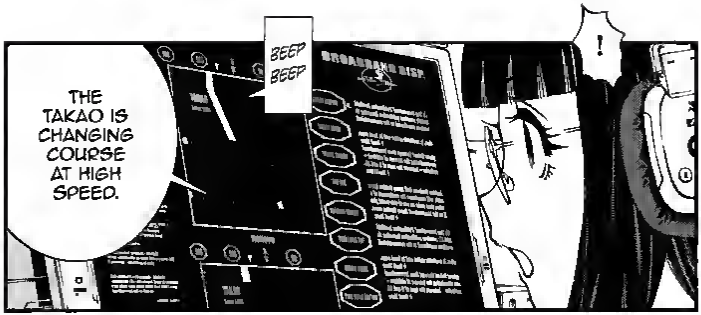

GRROOOAAH

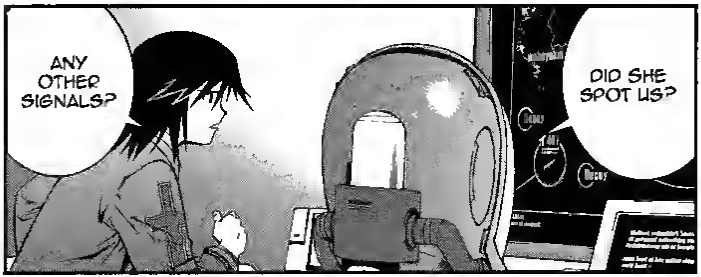

THEY'RE ON THE MOVE!
!!
FWOOM
I SEE FOUR SIGNALS.
THEY'RE SURFACING IN THE STORM?
FWOOM
...WHICH IS THE REAL ONE?
SO...

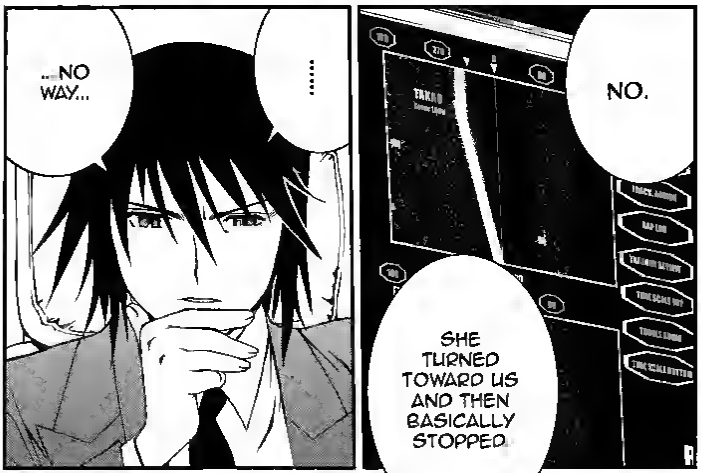

WIZ
WIZ
WIZ
.....
I SEE, SO THAT'S IT.
I'LL PUT THE WAVE MOTION COMPULSORY CONVERSION ARMOR INTO CRITICALITY WITH THE FIRST SHOT
THEY'LL BE VERY SURPRISED.
WHOOM

VWEEM
WHOOM
VWEEM
WHOOM

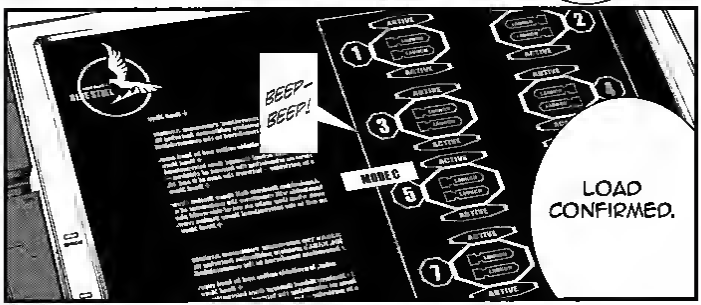

ROOOAR

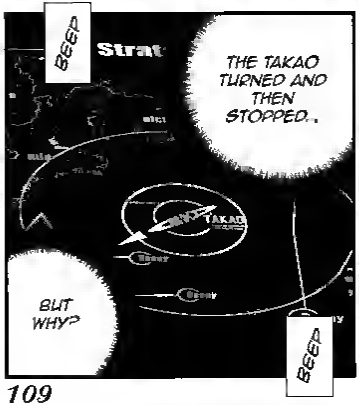

BEEP
BEEP
THE TAKAO IS CHANGING COURSE AT HIGH SPEED.
!


ANY OTHER SIGNALS?
DID SHE SPOT US?

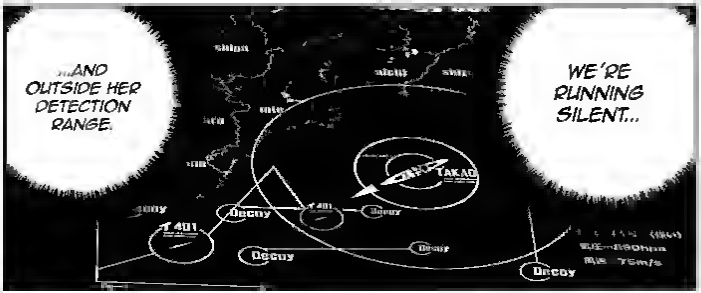

...NO WAY...
.....
NO.
SHE TURNED TOWARD US AND THEN BASICALLY STOPPED.

LOAD THE REAR TUBES WITH PASSIVE DECOYS
CREAK
LOAD TUBES ONE, TWO, AND THREE WITH LOW-FREQUENCY WARHEAD TORPEDOES
ROGER.
OPEN ALL FIRING TUBES AFTER LOADING.


BEEP-BEEP!
MODE C
LOAD CONFIRMED.

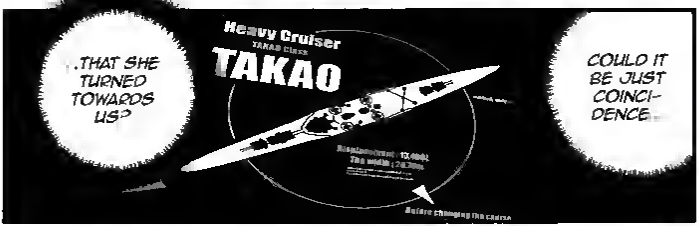

BEEP
THE TAKAO TURNED AND THEN STOPPED.
BUT WHY?
BEEP

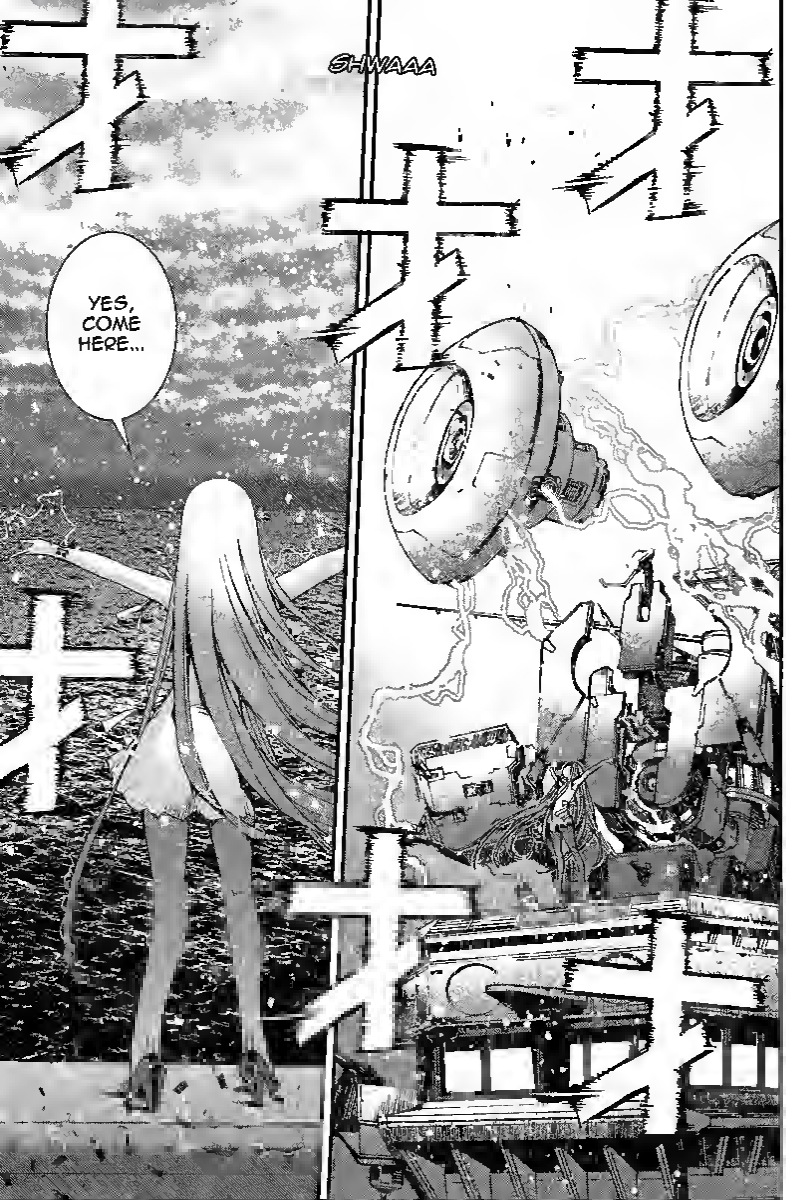
……


...AND OUTSIDE HER DETECTION RANGE.
WE'RE RUNNING SILENT...
TAKAO
Decoy
T.401
Decoy
Decoy
Decoy
Decoy

...THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE SEEN US
AT LEAST IN THEORY...

GWOOOM
SURFACING NOW.
DEPTH IS FIVE ZERO METERS.

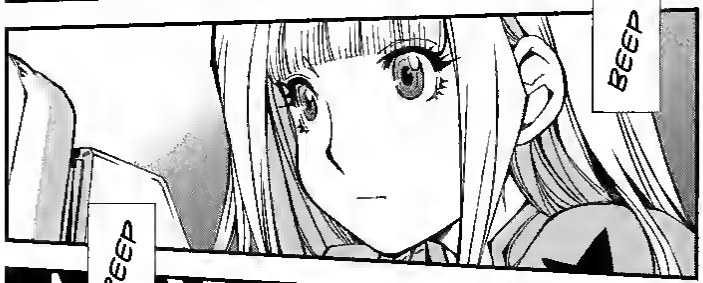

...THAT SHE TURNED TOWARDS US?
Heavy Cruiser
TAKAO CLASS
TAKAO
COULD IT BE JUST COINCI-DENCE...

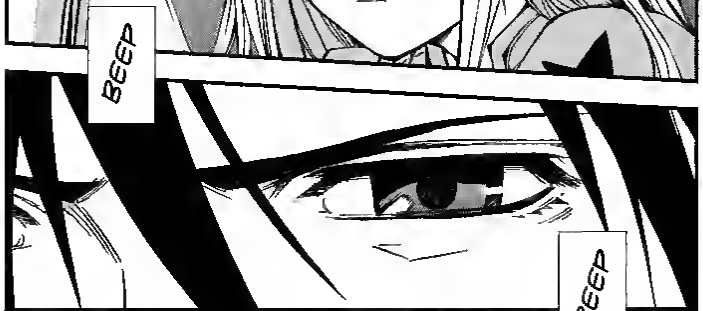

SHWAAA
YES, COME HERE...

JUST LIKE THAT.
AAAH

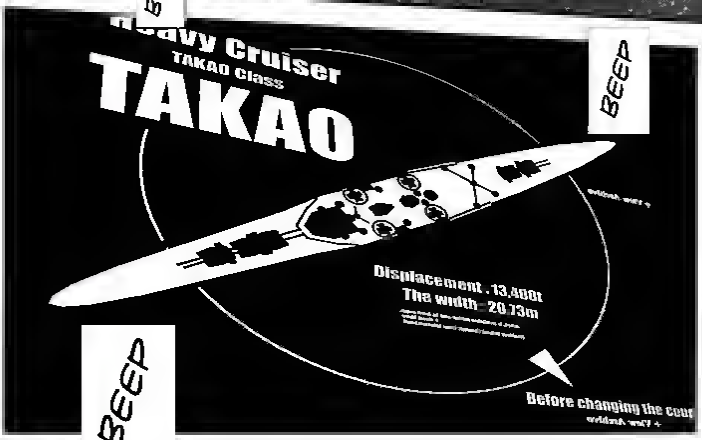
TAKAO
Displacement 13,400t
The width 20.73m
BEEP

BEEP

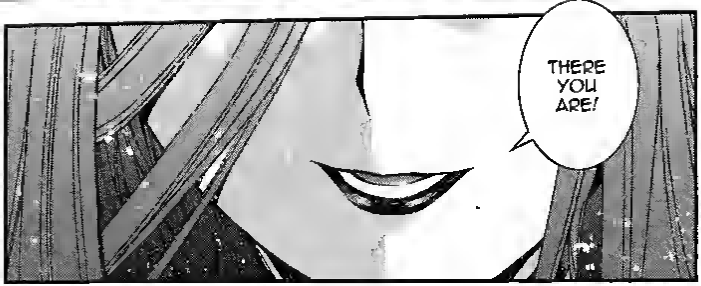

BEEP


BEEP
BEEP

WOOOM
BEEP
DEPTH IS ZERO METERS. SURFACING.


BEEP
Heavy Cruiser
TAKAO Class
TAKAO
BEEP
Displacement . 13,400t
The width—20.73m
BEEP
Before changing the cour

!


THERE YOU ARE!

KRACK—

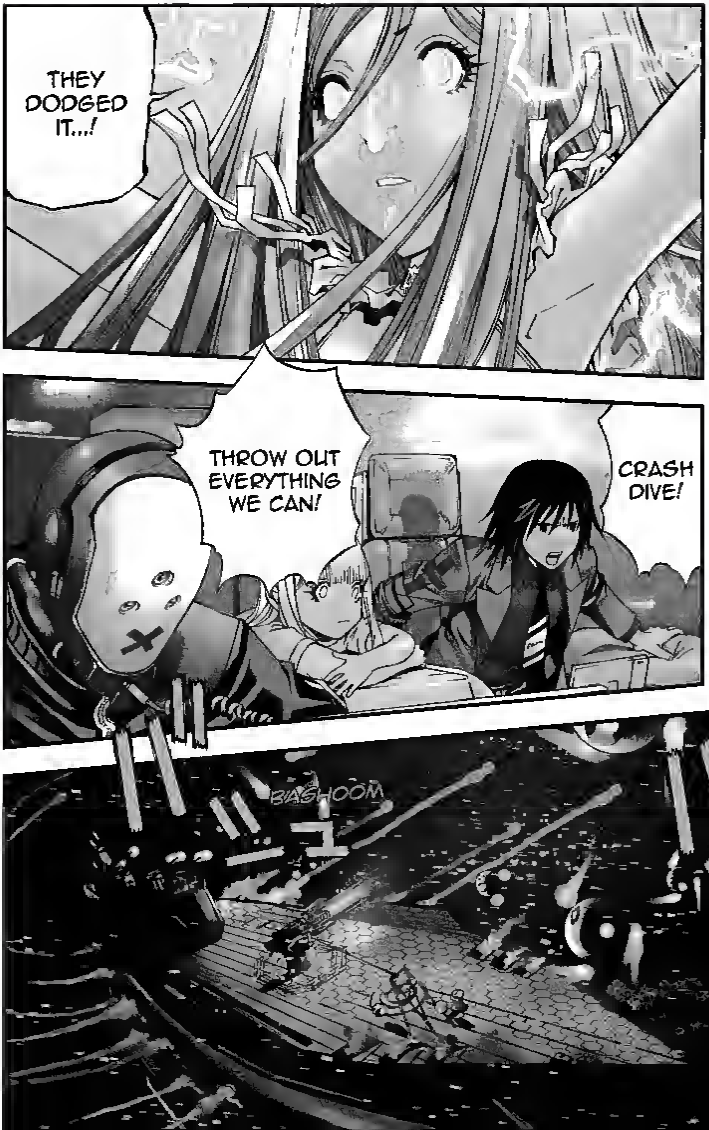
KOOM!

BOOM!

Depth 003 / Complete

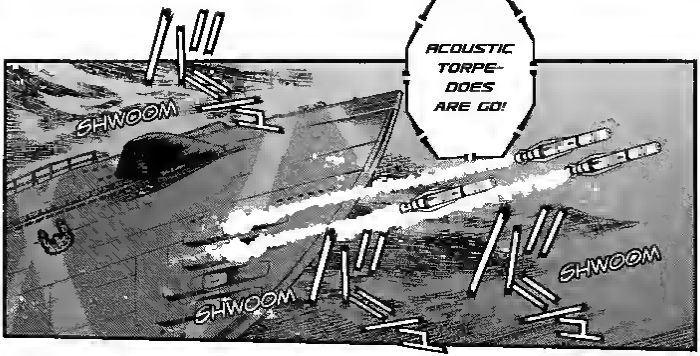
Depth.004
BAM!
HARD TO PORT!
WOW

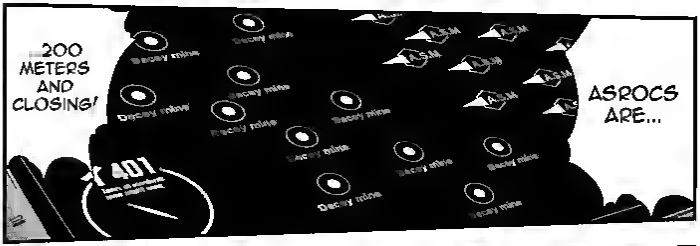
VWEEM
Death.004

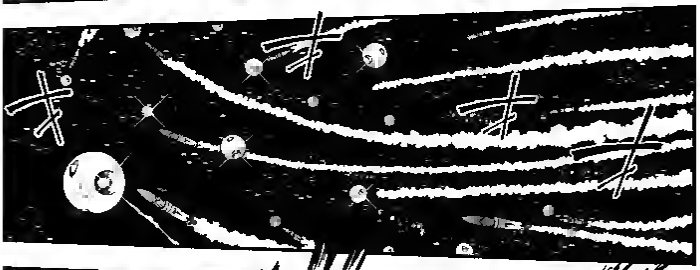

THEY DODGED IT...!
THROW OUT EVERYTHING WE CAN!
CRASH DIVE!
BIAGHOOM

FWOOOSH
HOW?
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
THE FIRING TIMING...
...ON THE SUPER-GRAVITY CANNON...

...SHOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT!
FWOOOSH!
DETECTING 18 ASROCS LAUNCHING FROM THE TAKAO!
LOAD TUBES 1 TO 3 WITH ACOUSTIC TORPEDOES AND DETONATE THEM IN SEVEN SECONDS! STIR UP THE SEA!
THE MISSILES ARE SPLITTING! THERE ARE NOW 54!
LAUNCH PASSIVE DECOYS IN EIGHT SECONDS!


ACOUSTIC TORPEDOES ARE GO!
SHWOOM
SHWOOM
SHWOOM

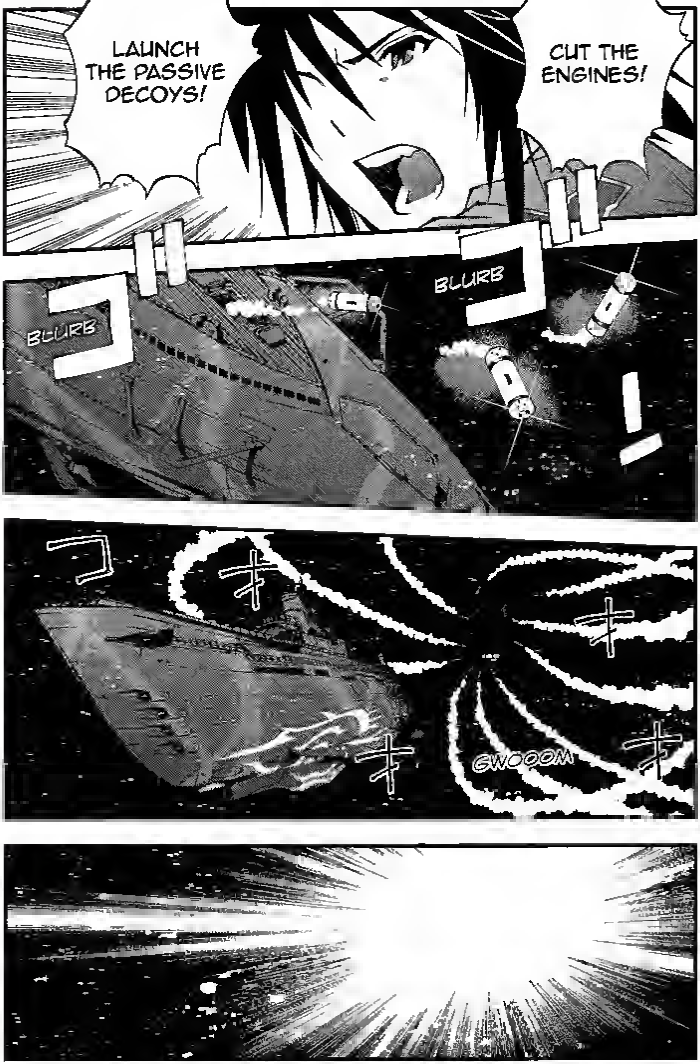

...200 METERS AND CLOSING!
ASROCS ARE...
Decoy mine
401



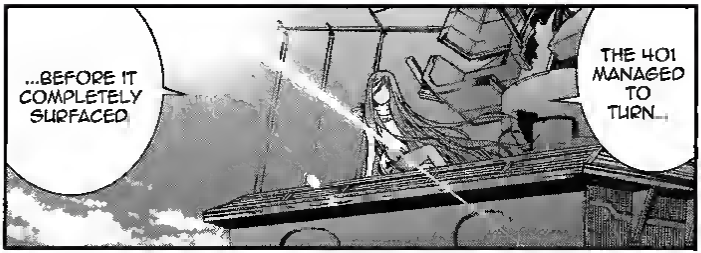
BOOM!

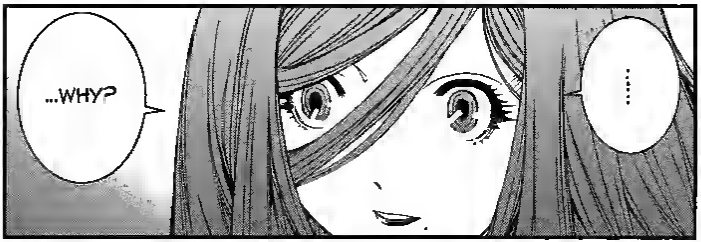
FWOOOM
ACTIVATE OUR INTERCEPTION SYSTEM!
KEEP US GOING UNTIL THE ACOUSTIC TORPEDOES DETONATE!
FIVE SECONDS TO DETO-NATION!
FOUR!
THREE!
BOOM!

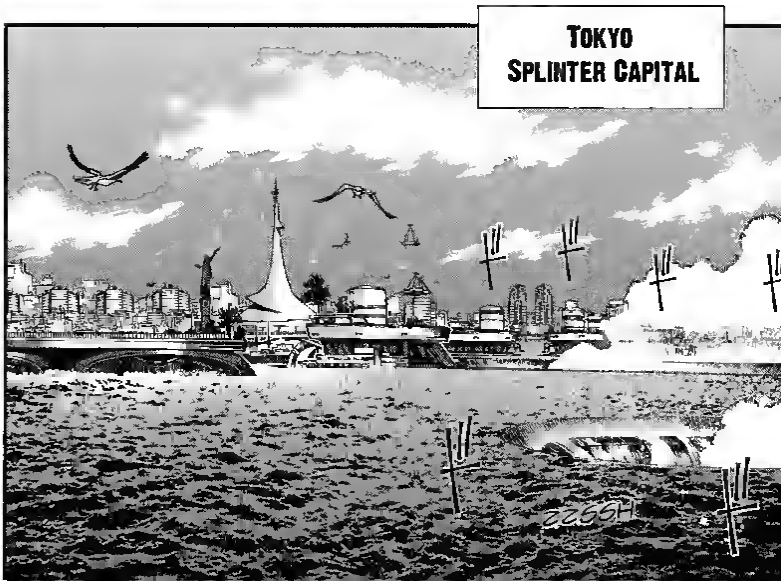
!
TWO!
SHIZUKA! MUTE YOUR HEAD-PHONES!
BEEP
ONE!
SKWEEE


LAUNCH THE PASSIVE DECOYS!
CUT THE ENGINES!
BLURB
BLURB
GWOOOM

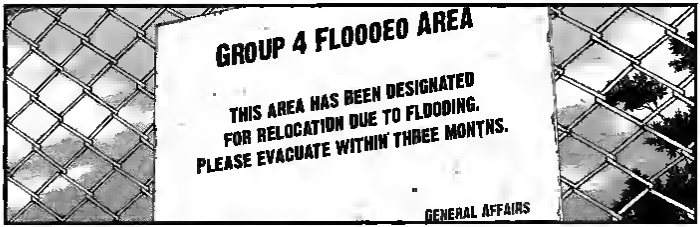
YOU LOST THEM?
SHOOM
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU'LL KNOW THE NEXT TIME THEY MOVE.
KEEP WATCHING.
BUT...


...BEFORE IT COMPLETELY SURFACED
THE 401 MANAGED TO TURN...


...WHY?
.....


TOKYO
SPLINTER CAPITAL
226H

GROUP 4 FLOOOED AREA
THIS AREA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED
FOR RELOCATION DUE TO FLOODING.
PLEASE EVACUATE WITHIN THREE MONTHS.
GENERAL AFFAIRS


GROUP 4 FLOOOED AREA
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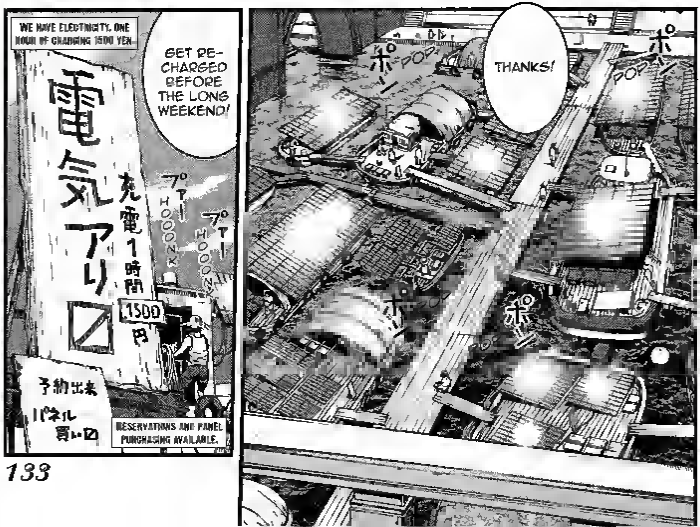
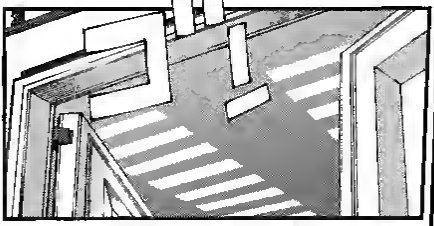
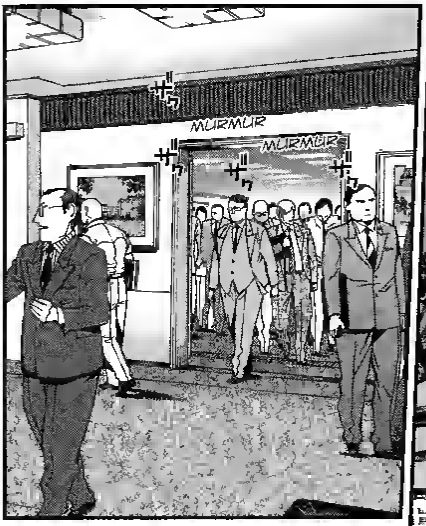
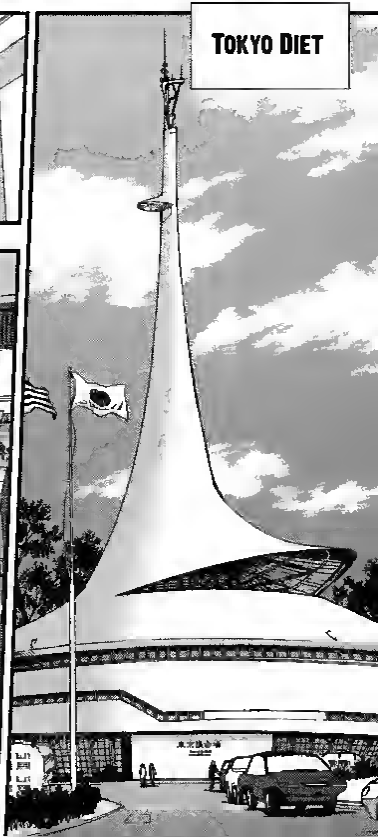

WE HAVE ELECTRICITY. ONE HOUR OF CHARGING 1500 YEN.
GET RE-CHARGED BEFORE THE LONG WEEKEND!
電気アリ
充電1時間
1500円
予約出来
パネル買い取
RESERVATIONS AND PANEL PURCHASING AVAILABLE.
THANKS!

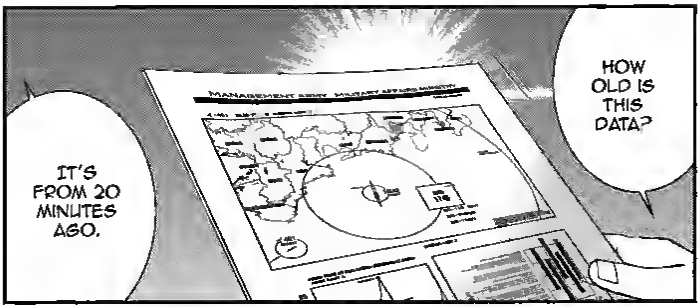
I'm hungry!
You brought me!

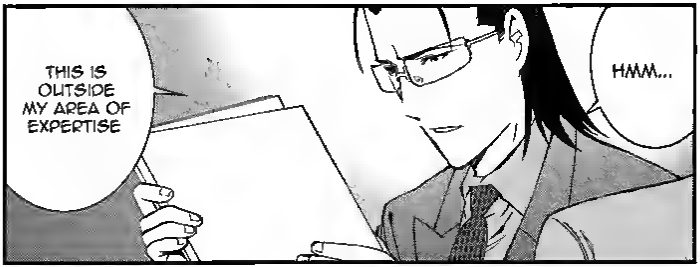



MURMUR
MURMUR


TOKYO DIET

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KAMIKAGE.
MUZMUR
MUZMUR
YOU OUGHT TO LOOK AT THIS
IF YOU'LL PARDON ME...
!


HOW OLD IS THIS DATA?
IT'S FROM 20 MINUTES AGO.


HMM...
THIS IS OUTSIDE MY AREA OF EXPERTISE

VICE-ADMIRAL URAGAMI!

AND THAT'S HOW IT IS.
は
HA
は
HA
は
HA

I'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ON THIS.
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT...
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
OH, KAMI-KAGE!
AND WHAT IS THIS, EXACTLY?
...?
...WHICH WE WERE PLANNING TO USE AS DISCUSSED.
THIS IS THE COMBAT DATA FOR THE 401...

....I SEE.
.....
IT ENCOUNTERED A HEAVY CRUISER CLASS OFF THE COAST OF NAGOYA APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES AGO
THIS SORT OF THING ISN'T REALLY MY FIELD.
TAK
TAK
HMM. SO THEY'RE USING THE TYPHOON AS COVER.
IT'S TRUE THAT A SURFACE SHIP'S DETECTION RADIUS...
...IS AFFECTED BY THE WEATHER.
CREAK
ESPECIALLY OPTICAL.
ELECTRO-MAGNETIC SENSORS ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO RAIN.

...IT'S A REAL GAMBLE!
JUST THE KIND OF THING A YOUNG KID WOULD THINK OF!
HA HA HA
THAT SAID...

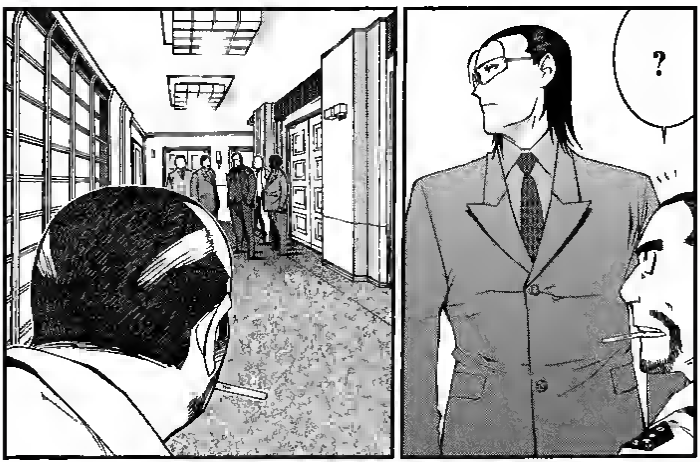
...WHAT ARE THESE THINGS ON THE SATELLITE ANALYSIS IMAGE?
SO...

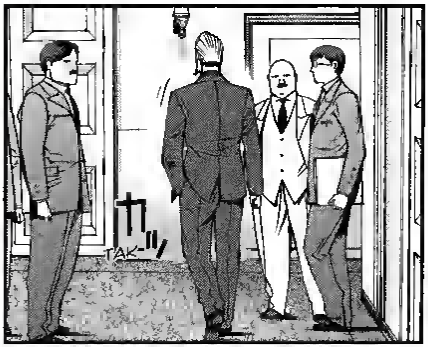
...SHOULD BE HEADING NORTH TOWARDS YOKOSUKA.
THE 401...

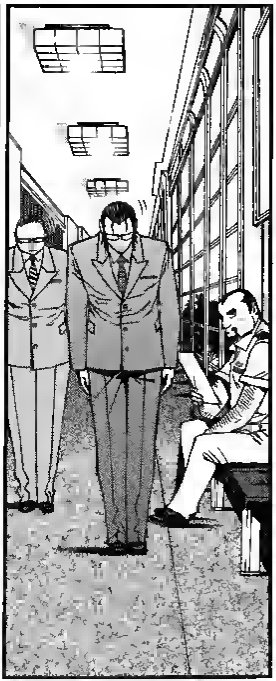
WE BELIEVE THE OTHERS TO BE DECOYS.
ONE OF THEM IS THE REAL 401.

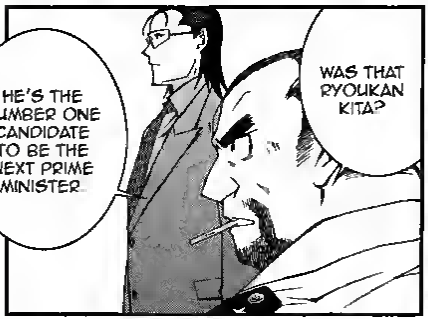
..THERE'S TOO MUCH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE FLEET OF FOG.
THOUGH AS A MILITARY MAN IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT IT..

..OUR SUPER-CAVITATING TORPEDOES DON'T WORK ON THE ENEMY WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST THEM
THE 401'S CREW ARE MORE EXPERIENCED, AND..

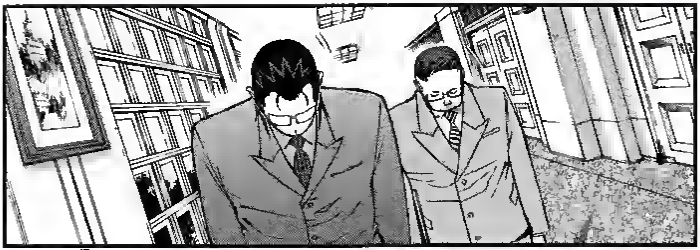

?

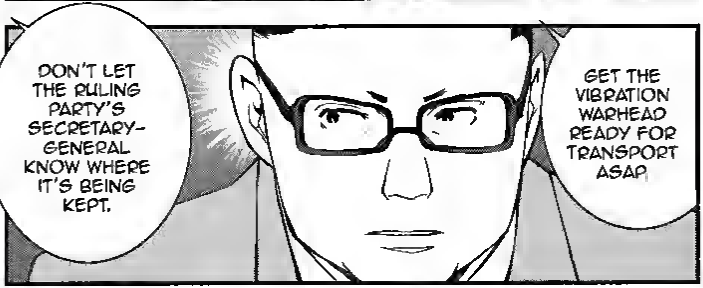

TAK-



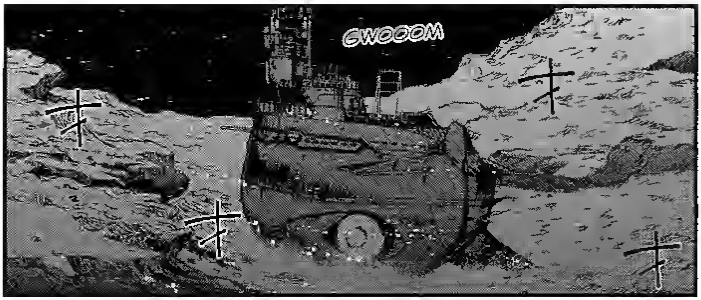

HE'S THE NUMBER ONE CANDIDATE TO BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER.
WAS THAT RYOUKAN KITA?

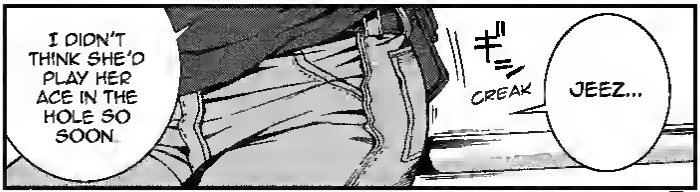
YES.
WAS HE OPPOSED TO THE PROJECT?
WELL...
キリ
キリ
CREAK
はは
HA
HA
HA
LET'S BOTH TRY TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE
NEITHER OF US CAN AFFORD TO PISS OFF A POLITICIAN.

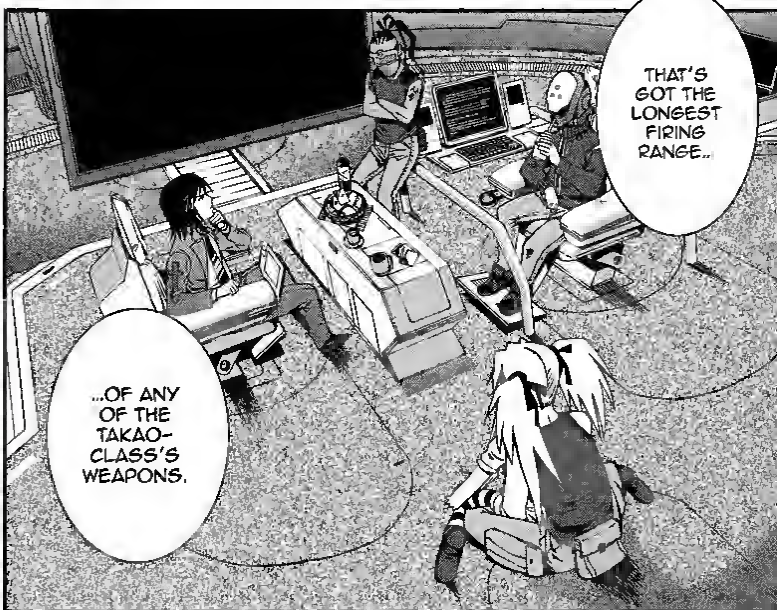


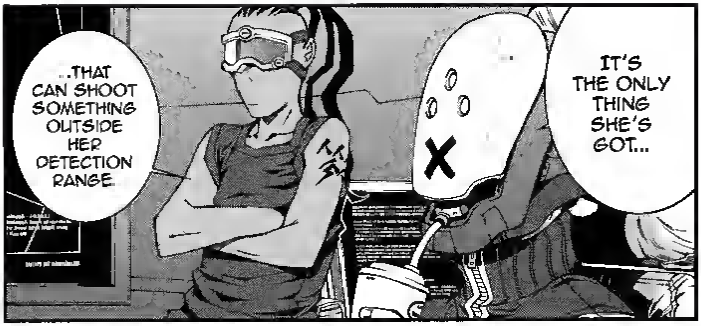

DON'T LET THE RULING PARTY'S SECRETARY-GENERAL KNOW WHERE IT'S BEING KEPT.
GET THE VIBRATION WARHEAD READY FOR TRANSPORT ASAP.

AND...
...CONTACT DOCTOR OSAKABE.
YES, SIR.

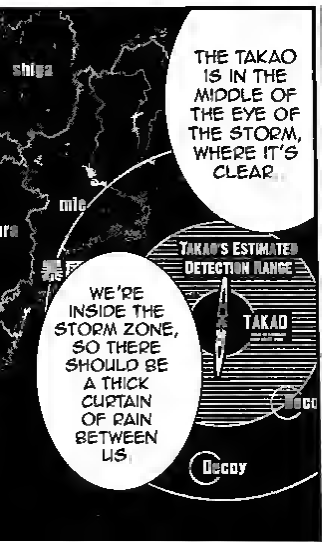

SWOOOM

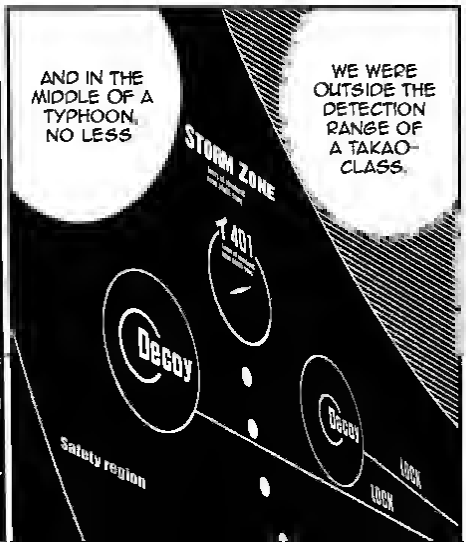

I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D PLAY HER ACE IN THE HOLE SO SOON.
CREAK
JEEZ...

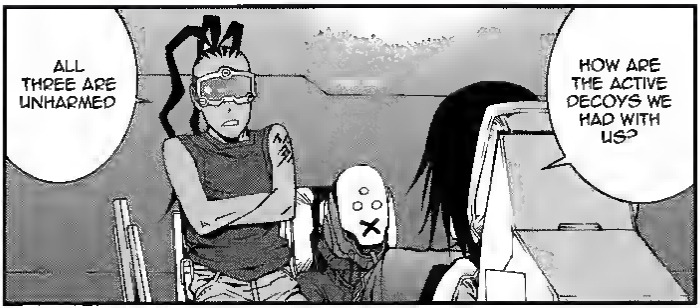

THAT'S GOT THE LONGEST FIRING RANGE...
...OF ANY OF THE TAKAO-CLASS'S WEAPONS.


IT'S THE ONLY THING SHE'S GOT...
..THAT CAN SHOOT SOMETHING OUTSIDE HER DETECTION RANGE.

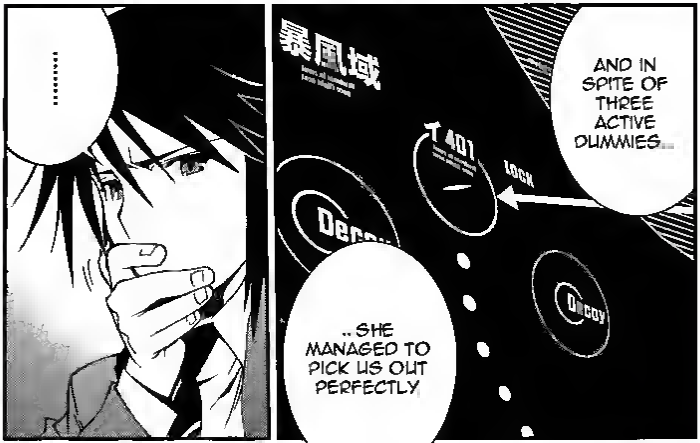
.....
THAT'S THE PROBLEM.


THE TAKAO IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EYE OF THE STORM, WHERE IT'S CLEAR.
WE'RE INSIDE THE STORM ZONE, SO THERE SHOULD BE A THICK CURTAIN OF RAIN BETWEEN US.
Shiga
TAKAO'S ESTIMATED DETECTION RANGE
TAKAO
Decoy
Decoy

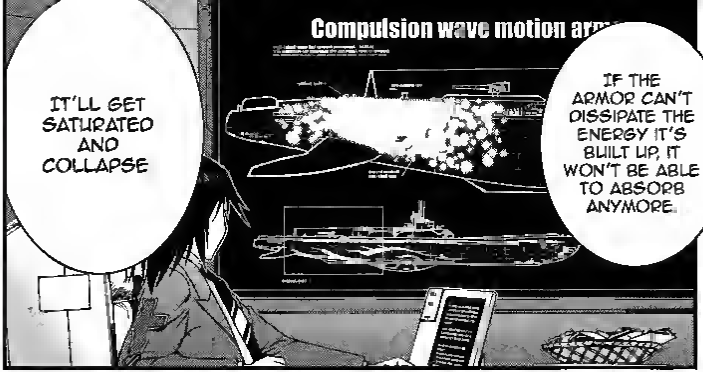

WE WERE OUTSIDE THE DETECTION RANGE OF A TAKAO-CLASS.
AND IN THE MIDDLE OF A TYPHOON, NO LESS
STORM ZONE
401
Decoy
Decoy
Safety region
LOCK
LOCK

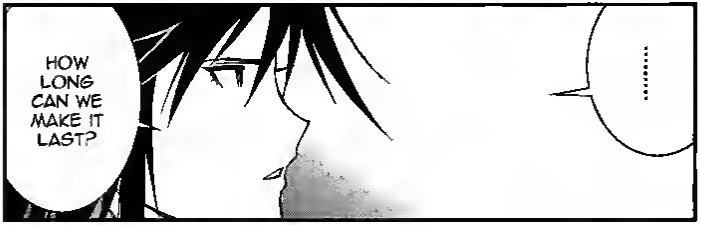

ALL THREE ARE UNHARMED
HOW ARE THE ACTIVE DECOYS WE HAD WITH US?

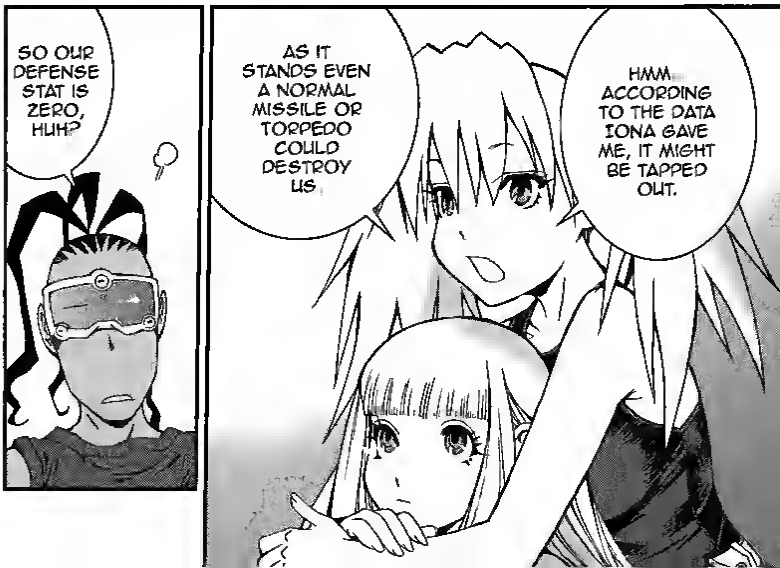
AND IN A SITUATION WHERE SHE COULDN'T USE OPTICAL INSTRU-MENTS
SHE FIRED DIRECTLY AT US WHEN WE WERE BEYOND HER DETECTION RANGE
SO SHE WAS SHOOTING STRAIGHT AT US.

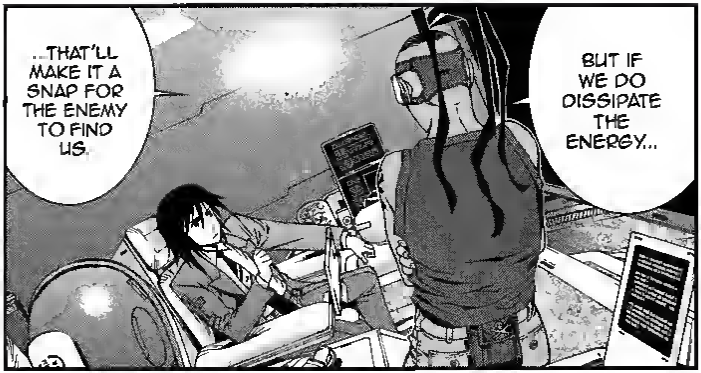

.....
暴風域
T 401
LOCK
AND IN SPITE OF THREE ACTIVE DUMMIES...
..SHE MANAGED TO PICK US OUT PERFECTLY

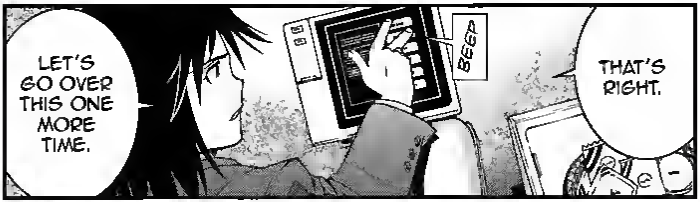
THE PLAN WAS FOR US BE EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS AND SUBMERGE THE DECOYS...
...THEN SURFACE AND TRY AND CATCH HER BY SURPRISE, BUT...
IT'S IM-POSSIBLE.
RUMBLE
.. PUT THE KLEIN FIELD ARMOR ONE STEP AWAY FROM CRITICALITY
THAT GRAZE FROM THE SUPER-GRAVITY CANNON...
HOW MUCH DAMAGE DID WE TAKE?
IT'S A WRECK.

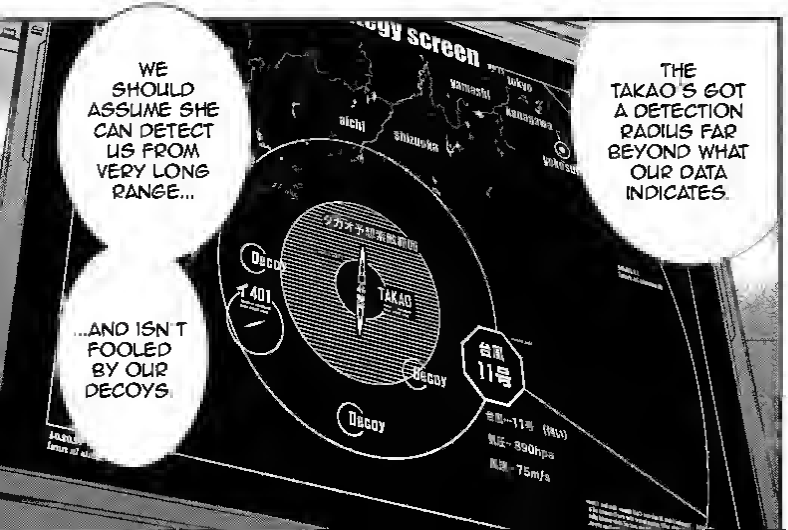

Compulsion wave motion arm
IT'LL GET SATURATED AND COLLAPSE
IF THE ARMOR CAN'T DISSIPATE THE ENERGY IT'S BUILT UP, IT WON'T BE ABLE TO ABSORB ANYMORE.

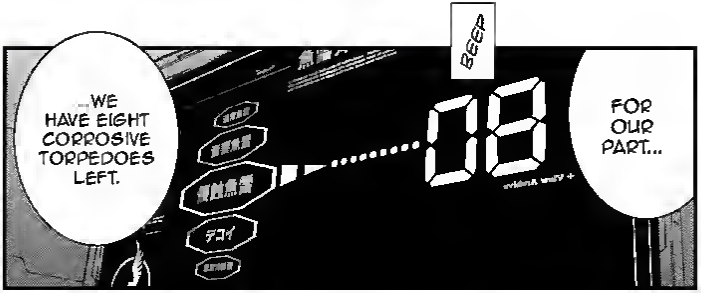

HOW LONG CAN WE MAKE IT LAST?
.....

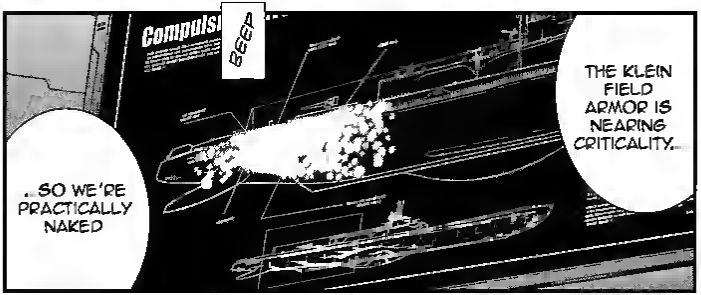

SO OUR DEFENSE STAT IS ZERO, HUH?
AS IT STANDS EVEN A NORMAL MISSILE OR TORPEDO COULD DESTROY US.
HMM. ACCORDING TO THE DATA IONA GAVE ME, IT MIGHT BE TAPPED OUT.

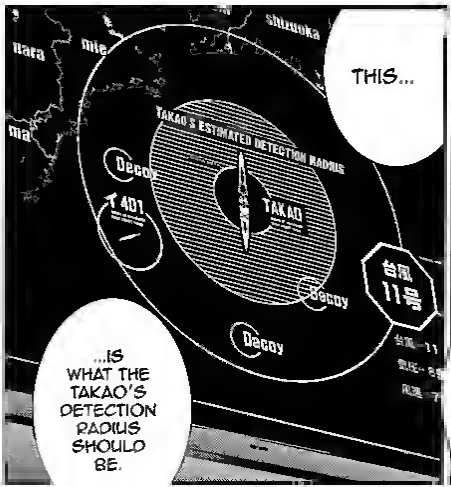

...THAT'LL MAKE IT A SNAP FOR THE ENEMY TO FIND US.
BUT IF WE DO DISSIPATE THE ENERGY...


LET'S GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME.
BEEP
THAT'S RIGHT.

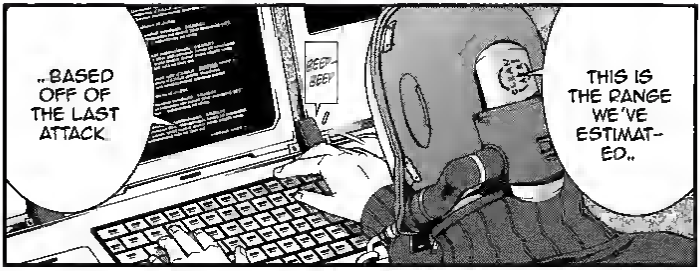

WE SHOULD ASSUME SHE CAN DETECT US FROM VERY LONG RANGE...
...AND ISN'T FOOLED BY OUR DECOYS.
THE TAKAO'S GOT A DETECTION RADIUS FAR BEYOND WHAT OUR DATA INDICATES.
Decoy screen
Tokyo
Kanagawa
Aichi
Shizuoka
TAKAO
Decoy
Decoy
Decoy
401
台風11号

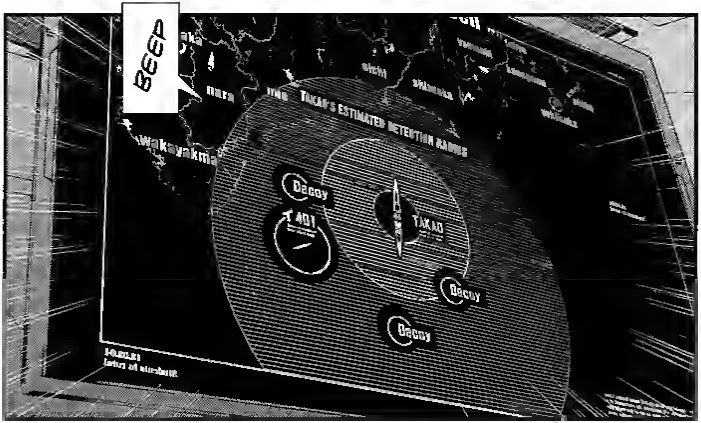

...WE HAVE EIGHT CORROSIVE TORPEDOES LEFT.
BEEP
08
FOR OUR PART...

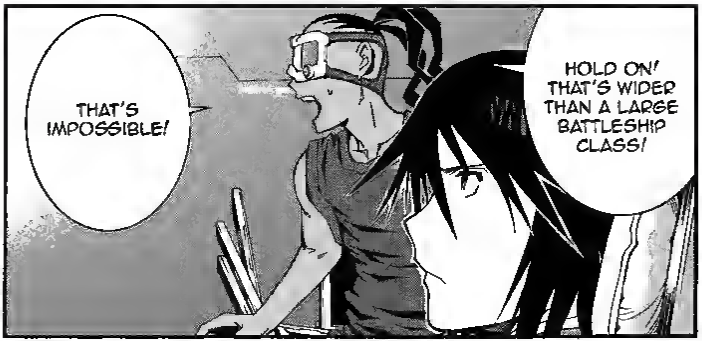

BEEP
THE KLEIN FIELD ARMOR IS NEARING CRITICALITY...
..SO WE'RE PRACTICALLY NAKED


THIS...
TAKAO'S ESTIMATED DETECTION RADIUS
TAKAO
Decoy
401
台風11号
...IS WHAT THE TAKAO'S DETECTION RADIUS SHOULD BE.

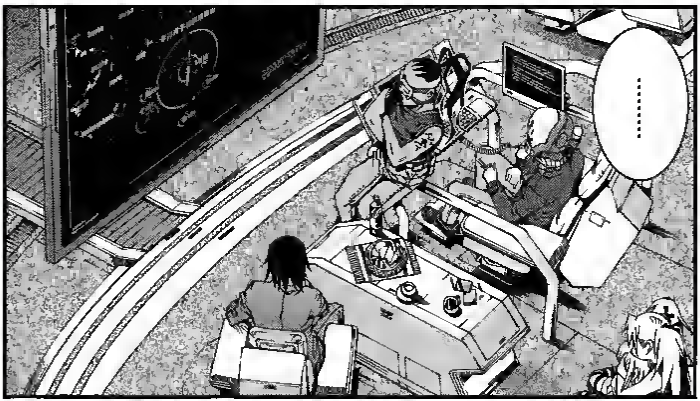
WHETHER WE MOVE FORWARD OR GO BACK...
...WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HER DETECTION RADIUS.


..BASED OFF OF THE LAST ATTACK
BEEP-BEEP
THIS IS THE RANGE WE'VE ESTIMAT-ED..

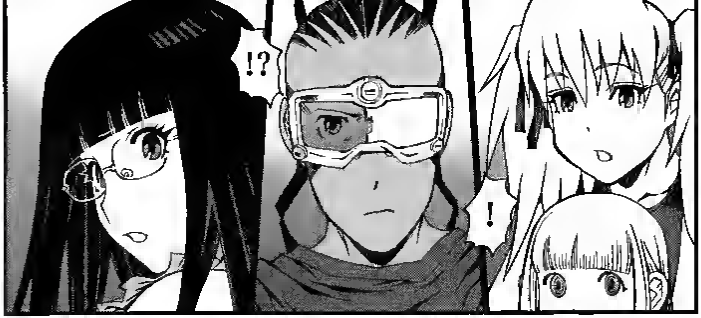

BEEP
TAKAO'S ESTIMATED DETECTION RANGE
Enemy
401
TAKAO
Enemy
Enemy

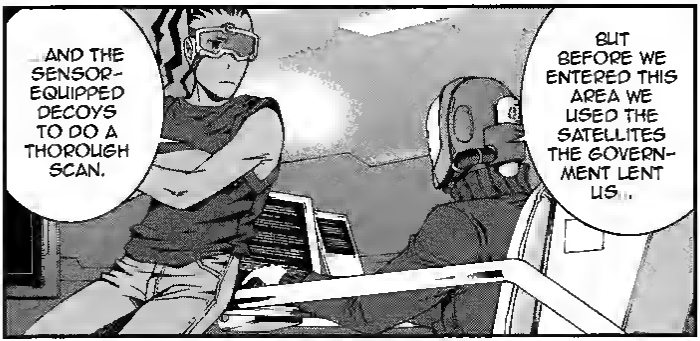

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
HOLD ON! THAT'S WIDER THAN A LARGE BATTLESHIP CLASS!

...IDed...
.. AND SHOT AT.
BUT THE FACT IS THAT WE WERE DETECTED...


.....

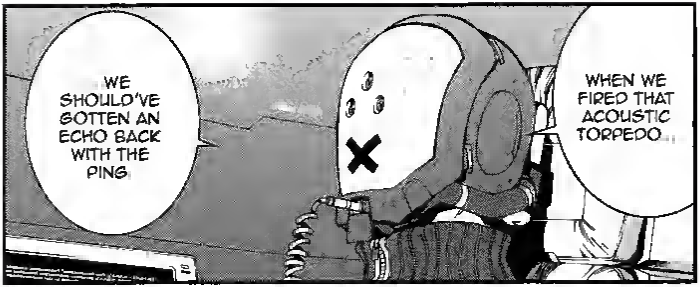
I GET IT.
THERE'S ANOTHER SHIP.


!?
!


BUT BEFORE WE ENTERED THIS AREA WE USED THE SATELLITES THE GOVERNMENT LENT US...
...AND THE SENSOR-EQUIPPED DECOYS TO DO A THOROUGH SCAN.

WE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT THE TAKAO.
AN OBSERVATION SUBMARINE...
IT WOULD BE HEAVILY STEALTHED...
...AND HAVE AN INCREDIBLY WIDE DETECTION RADIUS

CAN YOU CALL UP THE SONAR DATA FROM WHEN WE DETONATED THE ACOUSTIC TORPEDOES?
ONLY THE RAW DATA THAT I HAVEN'T ANALYZED YET.
BEEP
SHMM
SHMM
SHMM
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
BEEP-BEEP


WE SHOULD'VE GOTTEN AN ECHO BACK WITH THE PING.
WHEN WE FIRED THAT ACOUSTIC TORPEDO...

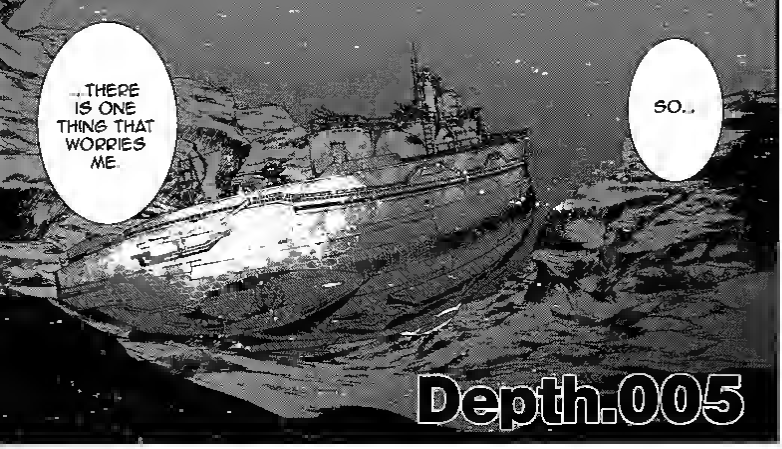
BUT WE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING EXCEPT THE TAKAO.

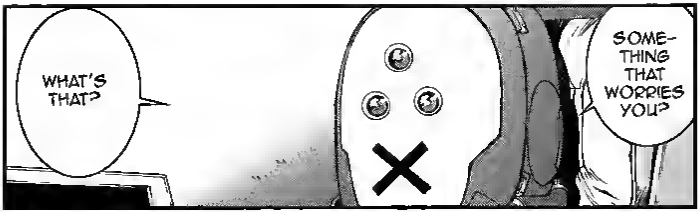
.....
THE REST ARE JUST ECHOES FROM UNDERSEA GEOGRAPHY

SOME-
WHERE
IN THAT
DATA...

...THERE
HAS TO
BE...

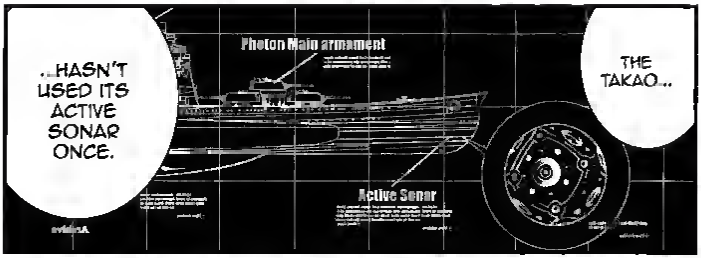
SWOOOM
...ANOTHER
SHIP.


...THERE IS ONE THING THAT WORRIES ME.
SO...
Depth.005


WHAT'S THAT?
SOME-THING THAT WORRIES YOU?

Cruiser
TAKAO Class
"TAKAO"
BEEP-BEEP
BLUE STEEL
Data is being displayed
The data of heavy cruiser Takao is approached.

PULL UP THE DATA ON THE TAKAO.

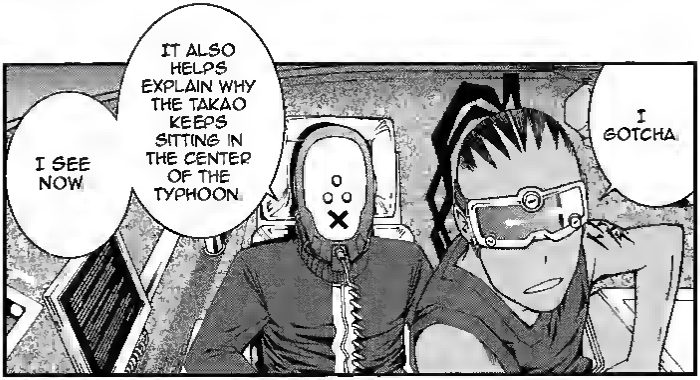

Photon Main armament
Active Sonar
...HASN'T USED ITS ACTIVE SONAR ONCE.
THE TAKAO...

WHEN A SURFACE SHIP IS LOOKING FOR A SUB-MARINE...
..THAT'S THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DO IT.

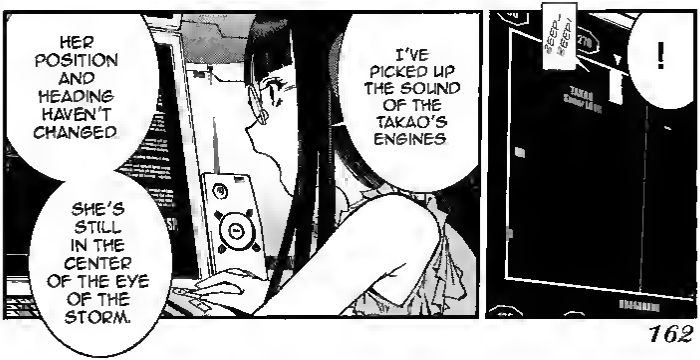
A SURFACE SHIP IS CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO THREATS FROM SUB-MARINES.
...AND SO IT ALWAYS USES ITS ACTIVE SONAR.

WE'RE THE ONES THAT WANT TO HIDE...
...NOT HER.

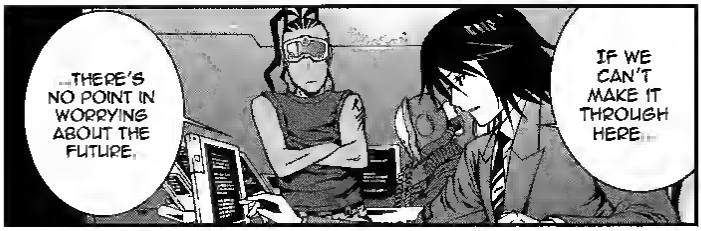
SO SHE COULD SINK US WITH HER CANNON
CREAK
AT FIRST, I'D THOUGHT SHE WAS PRETENDING NOT TO NOTICE US.
HMM...
BUT EVEN AFTER SHE FIRED IT, SHE'S KEEPING SILENT.
Yamanashi
Kanagawa
Shizuoka
Yokosuka
Nara
タカオ予想着弾範囲
Wakayama
Decoy
TAKAO
Decoy
TAKAO
Sonar analysis data
.. AND I THINK IT GIVES US A CLUE AS TO THE LOCATION OF THAT SHIP.
THIS IS ONE MORE INDICA-TION..
..THAT THERE'S ANOTHER SHIP..

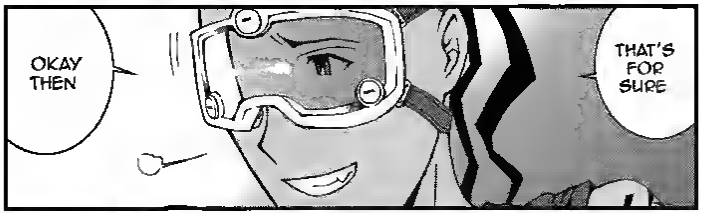

I GOTCHA.
IT ALSO HELPS EXPLAIN WHY THE TAKAO KEEPS SITTING IN THE CENTER OF THE TYPHOON.
I SEE NOW.

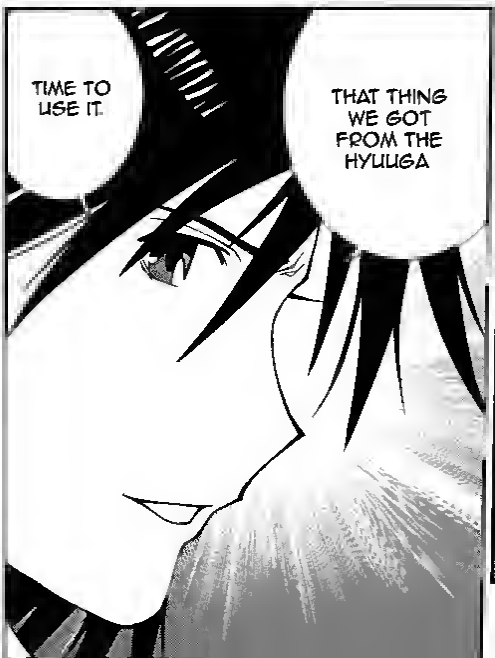
SHE HAS A REASON WHY SHE NEEDS TO STAY PUT.
IT'S TO HIDE THAT OTHER SHIP FROM OUR SONAR.

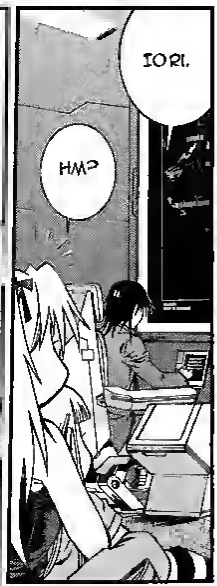

!
BEEP-BEEP
I'VE PICKED UP THE SOUND OF THE TAKAO'S ENGINES
HER POSITION AND HEADING HAVEN'T CHANGED
SHE'S STILL IN THE CENTER OF THE EYE OF THE STORM.

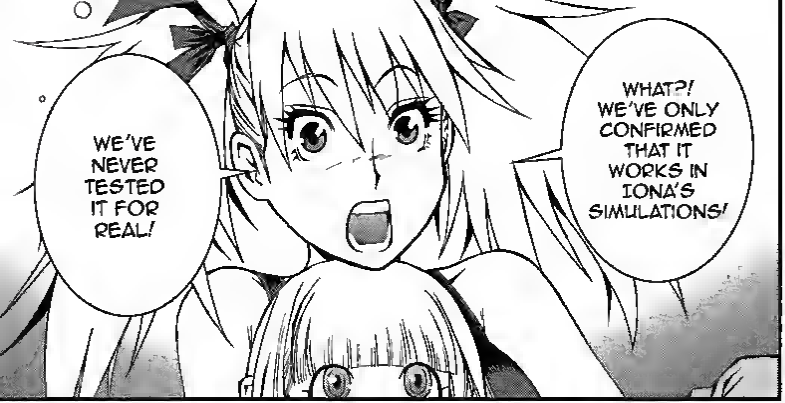
NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
SO WE'VE GOT A HYPOTH-ESIS.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
..WHICH IS WHAT BROUGHT HER INTO OUR SONAR RANGE.
SHE'S STAYING WITH IT
SHE CAME NORTH WITH THE TYPHOON..
NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO SURPRISE THEM
BEEP
BEEP
THE POINT OF A HYPOTHESIS IS TO PROVE IT
WE'VE ONLY GOT EIGHT TOTAL.
ARE YOU SURE?
THREE OF THEM.
WE'LL HAVE TO USE OUR CORROSIVE TORPE-DOES.

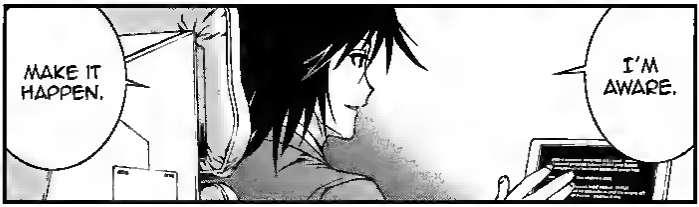

IF WE CAN'T MAKE IT THROUGH HERE...
...THERE'S NO POINT IN WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE.

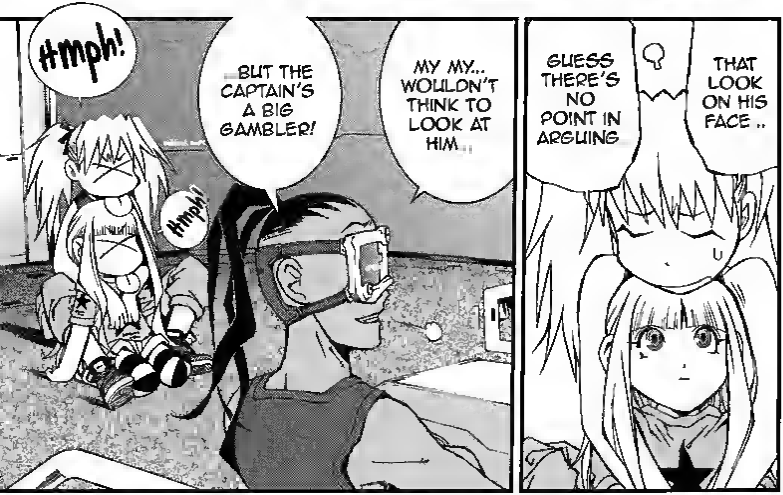

THAT'S FOR SURE
OKAY THEN


THAT THING WE GOT FROM THE HYUUGA
TIME TO USE IT.

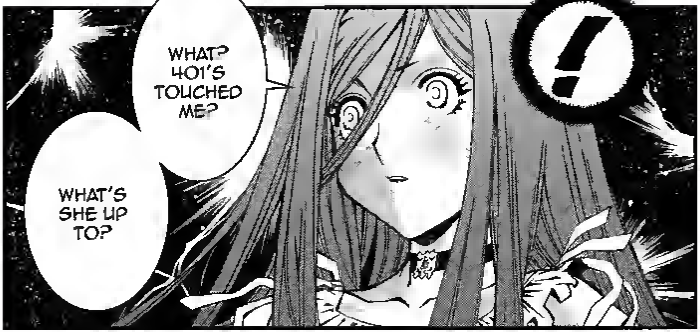

IORI.
HM?

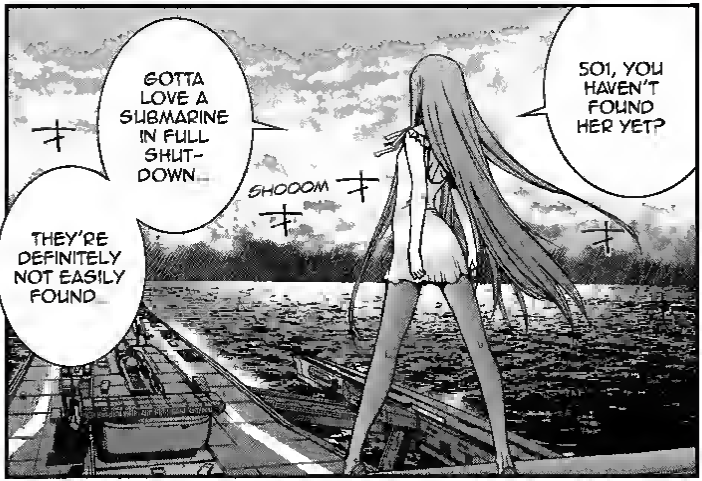

WHAT?! WE'VE ONLY CONFIRMED THAT IT WORKS IN IONA'S SIMULATIONS!
WE'VE NEVER TESTED IT FOR REAL!


I'M AWARE.
MAKE IT HAPPEN.


THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE ..
GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN ARGUING
MY MY... WOULDN'T THINK TO LOOK AT HIM...
...BUT THE CAPTAIN'S A BIG GAMBLER!
Hmph!
Hmph!

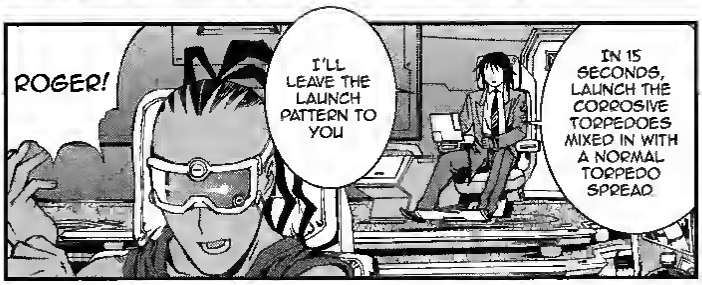
IONA!
BEEP
BEEP
YOU SAID BEFORE THAT MENTAL MODELS...
ARE RESTRICTED TO HEAVY CRUISER CLASS AND ABOVE, RIGHT?
SO THE TAKAO...
IT HAS ONE, DOESN'T IT?
TAKAO
HMM...
HMM
HMM

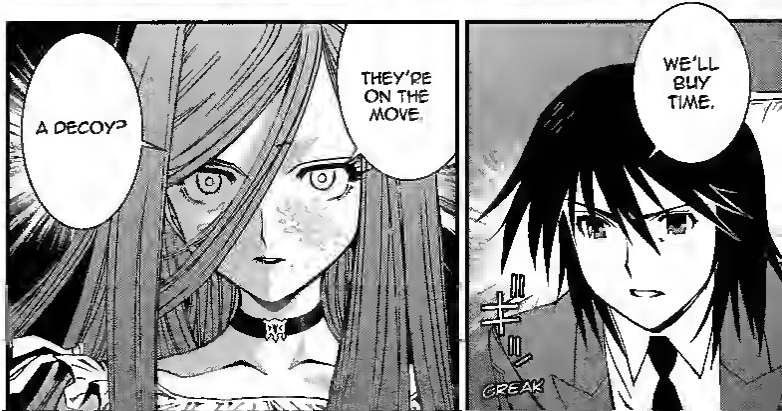

!
WHAT? 401'S TOUCHED ME?
WHAT'S SHE UP TO?


SO1, YOU HAVEN'T FOUND HER YET?
GOTTA LOVE A SUBMARINE IN FULL SHUT-DOWN...
SHOOOM
THEY'RE DEFINITELY NOT EASILY FOUND...

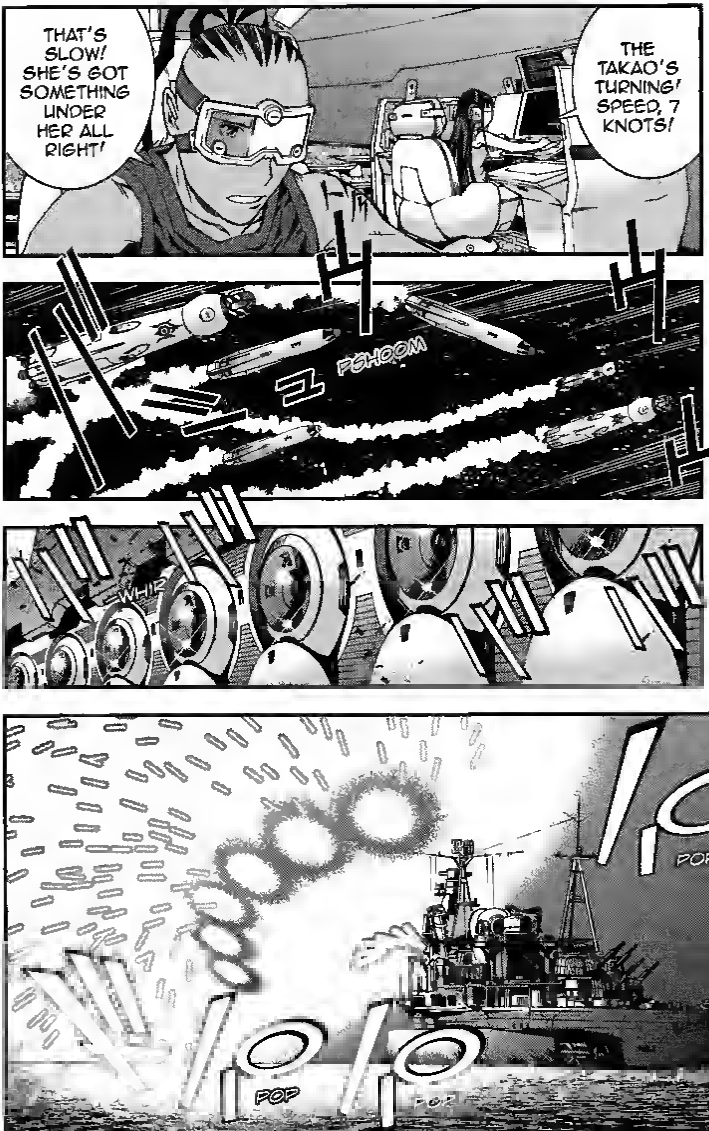
SHE DOES...
.....
LUCKY STAR

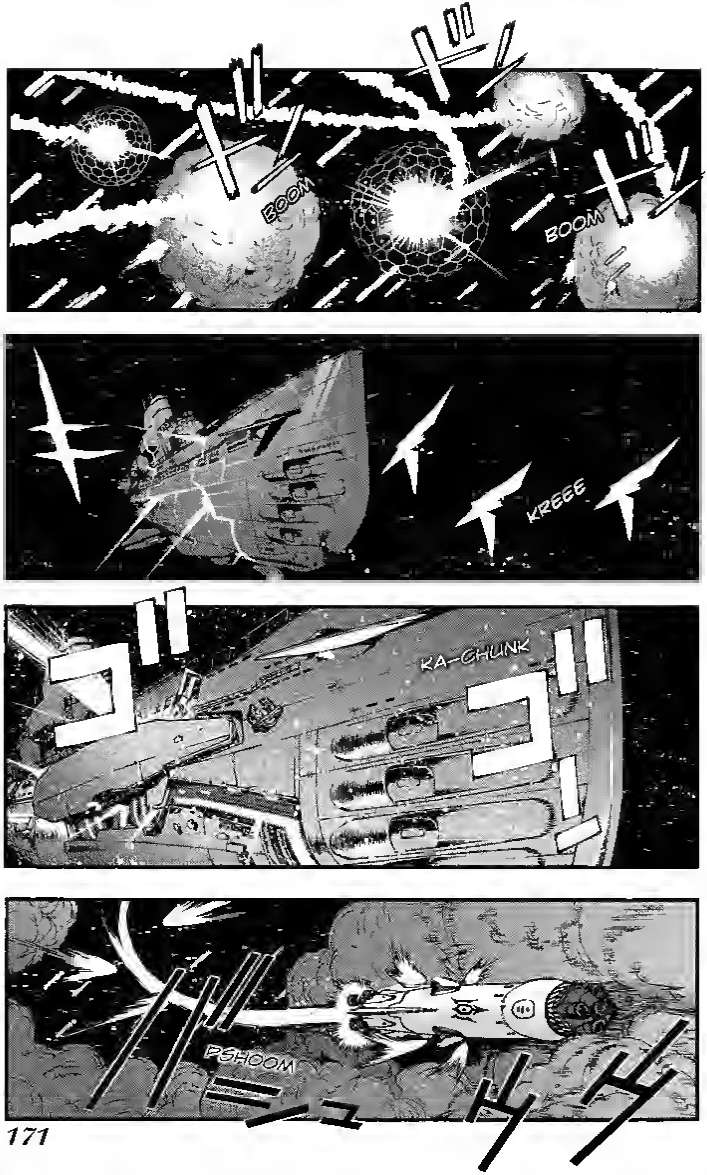
ENGINES TO FULL!
HWOOOM
...I SEE OKAY.
.....

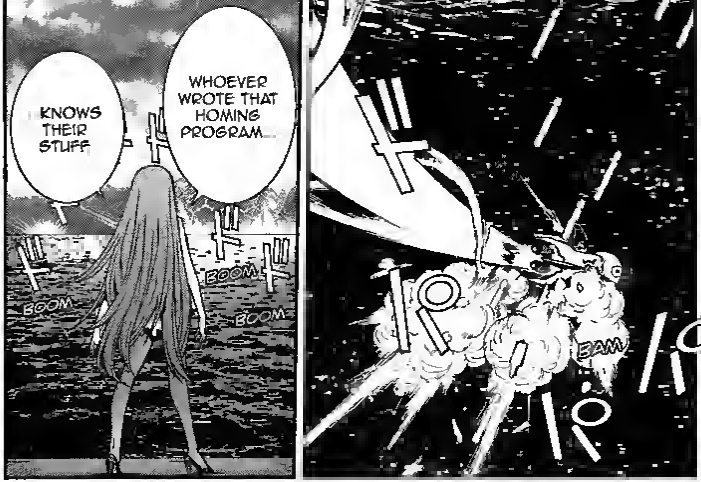

ROGER!
I'LL LEAVE THE LAUNCH PATTERN TO YOU
IN 15 SECONDS, LAUNCH THE CORROSIVE TORPEDOES MIXED IN WITH A NORMAL TORPEDO SPREAD.

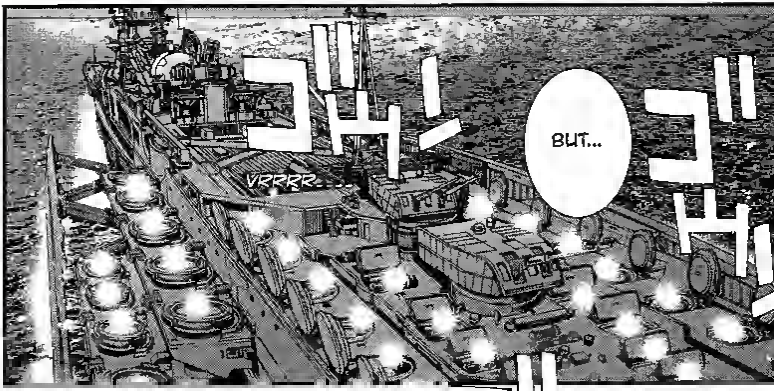

A DECOY?
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.
WE'LL BUY TIME.
GREAK

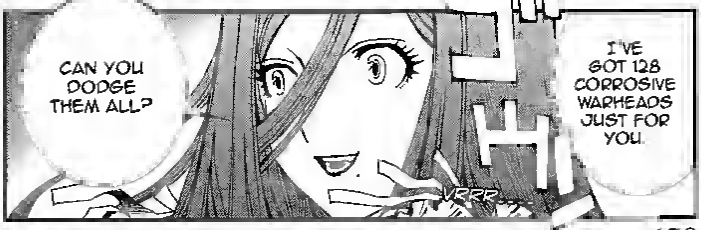
NO, THAT'S REALLY THEM.
PSHOOM
PSHOOM
I CAN SENSE THANATONIUM.
CORROSIVE TORPEDOES?
...YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH MY INTERCEPTION SYSTEMS.
BUT AT THAT RANGE...
SHWOOM
501, I'M CHANGING COURSE TO PORT. SYNCHRONIZE WITH ME.


THAT'S SLOW! SHE'S GOT SOMETHING UNDER HER ALL RIGHT!
THE TAKAO'S TURNING! SPEED, 7 KNOTS!
PSHOOM
WHIP
POP
POP
POP


BOOM
BOOM
KREEE
KA-CHUNK
PSHOOM


WHOEVER WROTE THAT HOMING PROGRAM...
KNOWS THEIR STUFF
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BAM


VRRRR
BUT...


CAN YOU DODGE THEM ALL?
I'VE GOT 128 CORROSIVE WARHEADS JUST FOR YOU.
VRRR

KREEE
!
RUMBLE
...401.
GOOD-BYE..
RUMBLE
SHWOOM

WHOOM
WHOOM
WHAT... IS THAT!?
WHOOM
WHOOM

SKREEE
!
WHOOM

ドオ
BOOM
ドオ

RUMBLE
SO!! EVASIVE MANEUVERS! CUT CONTACT!
A SUPERGRAVITY CANNON BIG ENOUGH TO CAUSE A SPATIAL DISTORTION LIKE THIS... ONLY A BATTLESHIP CLASS COULD..
!
IS THAT..
...THE HYUUGA'S ...?!
DWOOOM
SKREEE

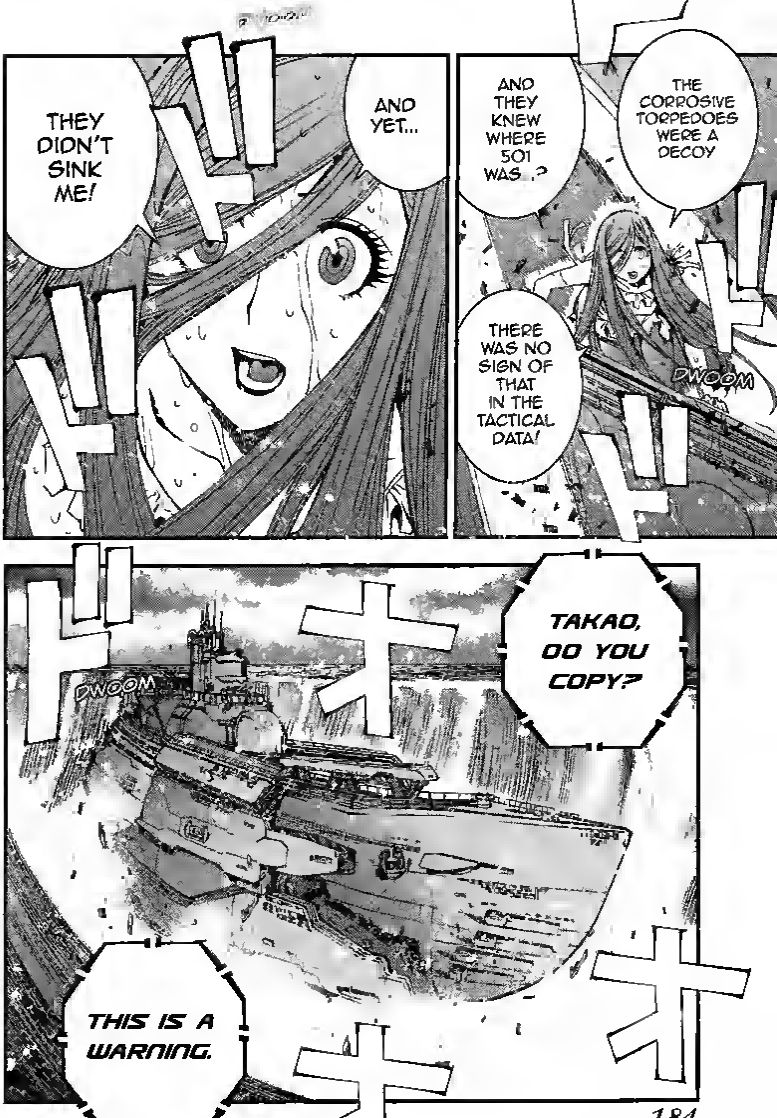
DWOOOM
FIRING AXIS IS LOCKED ON THE TAKAO!
BEEP
BEEP
THEY WERE POSITIONED TO LOOK LIKE A SINGLE SHIP!
ADJUST OUR BOW THREE DEGREES DOWN-WARDS!
BEEP
BEEP
GOTCHA!
JUST DO IT!
WE WON'T GET A SECOND SHOT!
BUT THEN THE TAKAO...?!
BEEP

BEEP
BEEP
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!
SHE'S DEPLOYING HER KLEIN FIELD ARMOR!
THE TAKAO'S GOING TO FULL SPEED! AND THERE'S A WAVE FIELD SIGNATURE!
I CAN'T KEEP THE ENERGY CONDUITS OPEN!
BEEP
BEEP
HURRY UP!
FIRE THE SUPER-GRAVITY CANNON!
BEEP
DAMN IT!
BEEP BEEP

FWOOM

SHBOOM

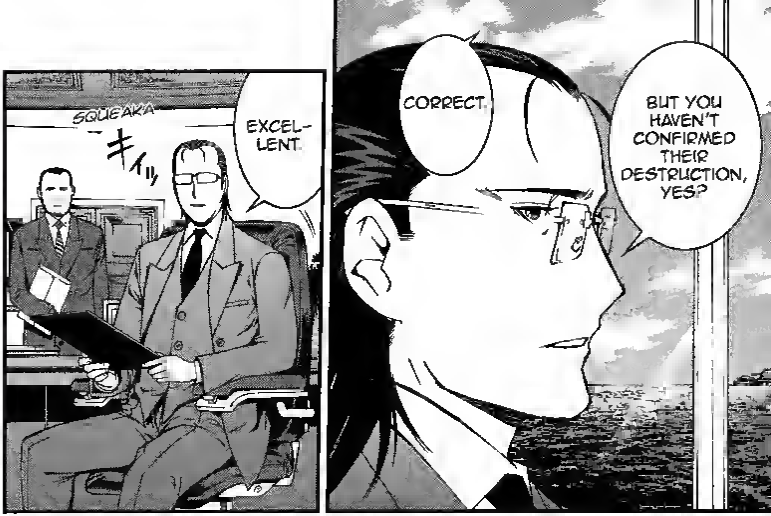
BOOOOOM

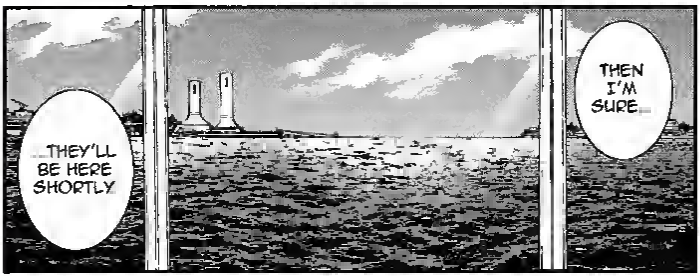

THEY DIDN'T SINK ME!
AND YET...
AND THEY KNEW WHERE 501 WAS...?
THE CORROSIVE TORPEDOES WERE A DECOY
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THAT IN THE TACTICAL DATA!
DWOOM
DWOOM
TAKAO, DO YOU COPY?
THIS IS A WARNING.

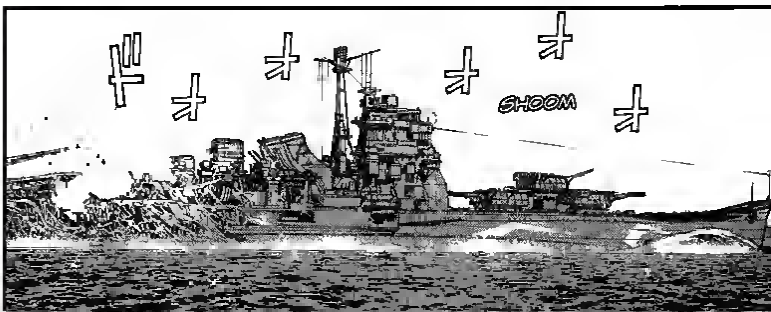
..WILL SINK YOU.
OUR NEXT ATTACK...
GWOOOM
SHUT DOWN ALL FUNCTIONS AND TURN CONTROL OVER TO US
I REPEAT...
DWOOM
SHUT DOWN ALL FUNC-TIONS...
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO ACCEPT THE COMMAND OF A MERE SUBMARINE CRUISER?!
YOU'RE TELLING ME...
...AND TURN CONTROL OVER TO US.
DWOOM

...TELLING ME TO...
YOU'RE...
IT'S TAKAO'S UNION CORE KEYCODES
RECEIVING
FWUMP
LUCKY RYAN
POMF
WHEW!

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
.....
KA-TCHAK
EXCUSE ME, SIR.
THE FOG HEAVY CRUISER DEPLOYED OFF THE COAST OF NAGOYA...
...HAS TURNED OUT TOWARDS THE PACIFIC.
WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF THE 401. NO IDEA WHERE IT IS.


SQUEAKA
キィ
EXCEL-
LENT.
CORRECT.
BUT YOU
HAVEN'T
CONFIRMED
THEIR
DESTRUCTION,
YES?


...THEY'LL
BE HERE
SHORTLY.
THEN
I'M
SURE...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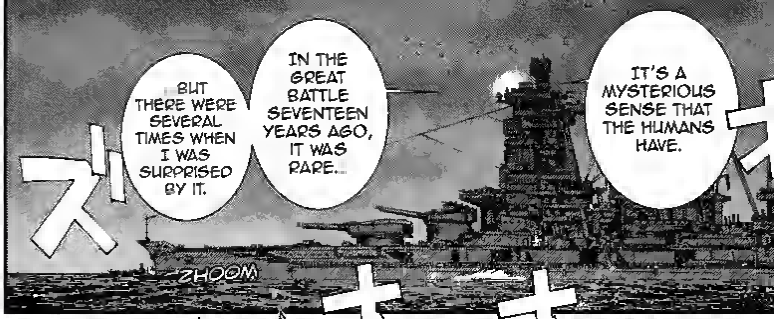
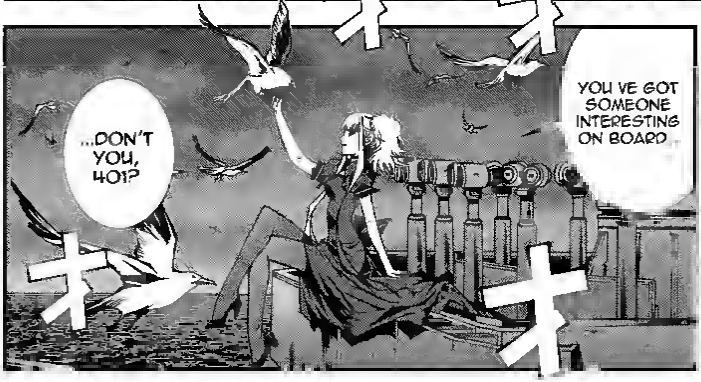
ォ
ォ
SHOOM

PLEASE RETURN TO THE PACIFIC.
I'VE LOCKED YOUR WEAPONS FOR 24 HOURS.
ITS LOCATION...
THE 501'S PRES-ENCE...
MY STRATEGY WAS PERFECT.
SHOOM
...TO AVOID THAT FIRST SHOT?
HOW DID THEY MANAGE...
...TAKAO.
THAT'S WHAT'S CALLED "INTUITION" ..


IT'S A MYSTERIOUS SENSE THAT THE HUMANS HAVE.
IN THE GREAT BATTLE SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, IT WAS RARE...
BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL TIMES WHEN I WAS SURPRISED BY IT.
ZHOOM


YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE INTERESTING ON BOARD...
...DON'T YOU, 401?

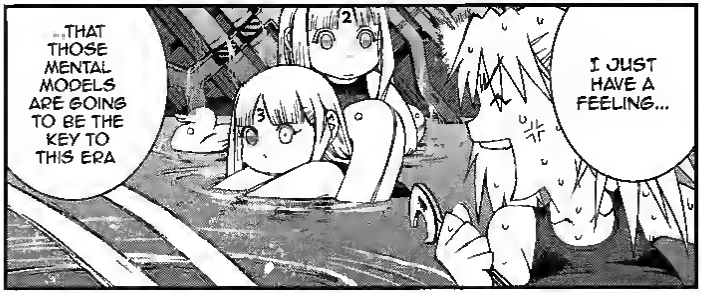
I WANT A UNIT LIKE THAT.
ESPE-CIALLY.

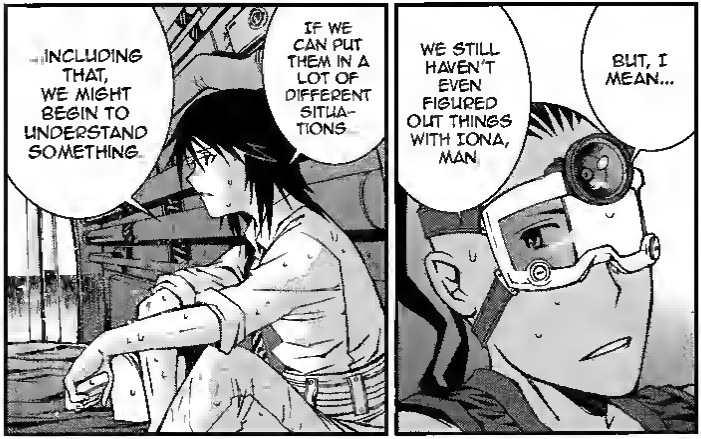
SO DOES IT MEAN THAT IF YOU HAVE THE UNITS CALLED "HUMANS" ONBOARD.
. THEN TACTICS LIKE THAT ARE POSSIBLE?
VROOOM

I WANT THEM VERY MUCH.
THE ONES THAT 401 HAS.
FLASH
FLASH
WHY'D YOU HIT THE 501 INSTEAD OF TAKAO?
HEY,
KROOOM
TELL ME SOMETHING.
IF SHE'D HIT US BACK, WE WOULD'VE BEEN DEAD.
YOUR BLUFF WORKED, SO IT'S FINE, BUT...

MENTAL MODELS.
WHEN WE FOUGHT HYUUGA, IONA WAS THE ONLY ONE I'D EVER SEEN.
BUT...
OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, MANY OF THE FOG FLEET SHIPS HAVE STARTED TO POSSESS THEM.
ZZZHPPP
AND? SO WHAT?
I'M THINKING ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS.
NOT THAT I HAVE AN ANSWER YET.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHAT IT MEANS?
YEAH. IF WE CAN COMMUNI-CATE WITH IONA...
..DOESN'T THAT MEAN WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE OTHER SHIPS?

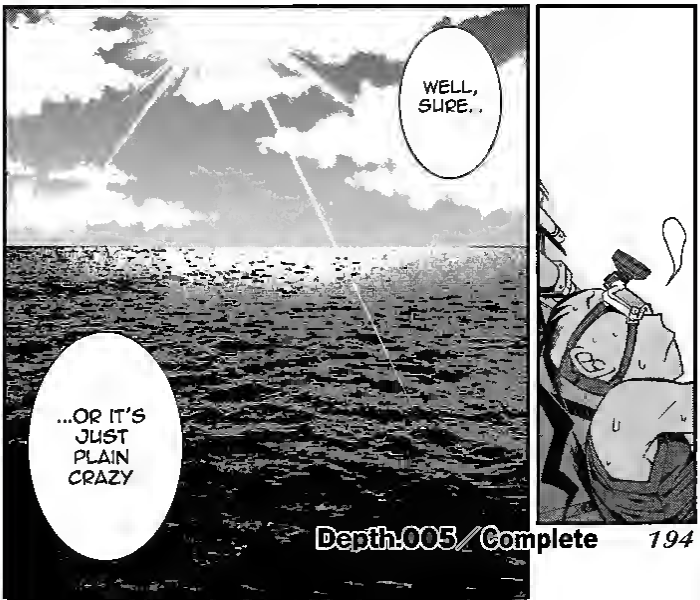
I'M NOT HOPING FOR THAT MUCH.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME WE CAN JUST KISS AND MAKE UP, ARE YOU?
OH, COME ON.


...THAT THOSE MENTAL MODELS ARE GOING TO BE THE KEY TO THIS ERA
I JUST HAVE A FEELING...


...INCLUDING THAT, WE MIGHT BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING...
IF WE CAN PUT THEM IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT SITUA-TIONS...
WE STILL HAVEN'T EVEN FIGURED OUT THINGS WITH IONA, MAN...
BUT, I MEAN...

I'VE DECIDED I WANT TO TRY IT.
IT MIGHT CHANGE THE WORLD, SOMEHOW.

KINDA EXCITING, HUH?
.....


WELL, SURE. .
...OR IT'S JUST PLAIN CRAZY

CAUTION!! CAUTION!! CAUTION!! CA
MARURI!
AT YOKOSUKA,
GUNZOU AND HIS CREW FIND...
OLD FRIENDS...
HIBIKI!
AND NEW ENEMIES...
WHO ARE THEY?!
ドドドドド

蒼海辞典 Dictionary of Blue Sea

ACTIVE SONAR: *This type of sonar emits a pulse of sound and analyses its reflection to determine the position of objects in the water. Since it emits a sound wave, there is a risk that the enemy will hear it and detect you.*

ACTIVE DECOY: *A decoy that emits its own pulses. The I-401's decoys mimic its shape and can deceive enemies visually as well.*

(Heavy Cruiser)

ACOUSTIC TORPEDO: *Torpedoes that make a loud explosion noise underwater, temporarily disabling sonar.*

BATTLESHIP: *The largest class of warship, equipped with large-caliber cannons. In the Fleet of Fog, the Hyuuga, Kongou, and Nagato are battleships.*

CORROSIVE TORPEOO: *A superweapon that is capable of damaging Fog Fleet ships. It corrodes the space around the target with gravity waves, causing the fundamental particles of matter to freeze and collapse. Humanity can neither construct nor duplicate these weapons.*

FAR EAST PATROL FLEET: *The Fleet of Fog ships that patrol the Sea of Japan. It originally consisted of three fleets, but with the sinking of the Flaghip Hyuuga by the I-401, it was re-organized into two fleets, one lead by the Kongou and the other the Nagato.*

FLAGSHIP: *The command ship that gives orders to the rest of a fleet.*

FLEET OF FOG: *The name of a mysterious fleet that appeared without warning as humanity's territory dwindled in the face of rising oceans and global warming. Their shapes and names correspond to those of World War II-era vessels, but their weapons are completely different.*

(Active Sonar)

THE GREAT BATTLE: *The naval battle fought between humanity and the Fleet of Fog 17 years ago. Humanity was utterly defeated at the hands of the Fog Fleet's superweapons and unknown technology.*

HEAVY CRUISER: *A battleship equipped with multiple turrets and torpedo tubes. It is less powerful than a battleship, but more mobile. In the Fleet of Fog, the Takao is one such ship.*

(Corrosive Torpedo)

I-401: *Originally a Fog Fleet submarine, currently crewed by Gunzou and his friends. Its Mental Model is Iona.*

LIDHT CRUISER: *A smaller and lighter version of the Heavy Cruiser. In the Fleet of Fog, the Negara is one ship.*

MENTAL MDDEL: *A humanoid consciousness that possessed by the I-401 and Fleet of Fog ships. Heavy Cruiser class or greater. Each ship has its own unique personality, and mental models can communicate with each other.*

PASSIVE DECOY:
A decoy that reflects radar and sound waves to baffle an enemy's sensors

PASSIVE SONAR:
This type of sonar uses a highly sensitive microphone to listen for the sounds of nearby ships and detect their location. As it doesn't emit a sound pulse like active sonar, it's more stealthy, but it is less accurate

PICKET SHIP:
A small ship equipped with powerful radar and sensors, used to detect the enemy

QUANTUM COMMUNICATION NETWORK:
A communication network that uses the principles of quantum mechanics. By using quanta as a communication medium, information can be transferred faster and in larger quantities than via electromagnetic waves, and these communications are also far more difficult to hack

(I-401)

1401 Cruise Submarine

SPLIT CAPITAL TOKYO:
As the sea levels rose and the fleet of fog appeared, the capital of Japan was forced to split. Its center of government is the Tokyo Diet

SSTO:
A reusable supersonic transport capable of spaceflight.

SUPERGRAVITY CANNON:
A weapon that uses gravitons to achieve the same effect as corrosive torpedoes. It has a wider range and bigger scale than corrosive torpedoes.

(Supergravity Cannon)

UNION CORE:
The central processing unit that gives the I-401 and Fog Fleet ships their unique characteristics. The larger the ship, the more information it stores and the faster its processing speed.

VIBRATION WARHEAD:
The only weapon that humanity has that can damage a Fog Fleet ship. Gunzou's crew and the I-401 are heading to Yokosuka to pick up a sample of it.

THANATONIUM:
The source of the Fog Fleet's energy and weapons. A type of matter unknown to humanity. It is constantly breaking down and emitting gravitons.

WAVE MOTION COMPULSORY CONVERSION ARMOR:
A super-armor made of nanoscale materials. It dissipates and absorbs the energy from physical attacks. Absorbed energy can be used by recycling it or emitting it outside the ship.

YOUNG KING COMICS

YKC"ARPEGGIO OF BLUE STEEL"
Ark Performance Presents!!
The torpedo is launched by the submarine.
It is terrible destructive power.
Take care not to hit.